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Questions relating to information

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the first half of 2007, the Department of Public Information continued to address key thematic priorities of the Organization, including issues relating to peace and security, climate change, the Millennium Development Goals and human rights. The Department has continued to expand its reach through the daily delivery of news and information products via radio, television and print and reaches an ever-widening global audience for text and audio-visual material via the World Wide Web. Using a combination of traditional means of communications and new information and communications technologies, the Department worked in close cooperation with Member States, United Nations system partners and civil society to expand its outreach and promotional activities. Increased emphasis was placed on reaching out to students and youth groups. The network of United Nations information centres played a key role in implementing the Department's communications goals. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continued its transition to a knowledge service for the Organization. Further steps were also taken to strengthen the culture of evaluation at all levels of the Department's work. As a result, the Department's public information capacity was strengthened.

* A/62/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/121 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-ninth session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department of Public Information introduced three reports for consideration by the Committee on Information at its twenty-ninth session, held from 30 April to 11 May 2007 (A/AC.198/2007/2-4). The deliberations of the Committee with regard to those reports are reflected in its report to the General Assembly.[1]

2. The present report, prepared in response to the above-mentioned resolution, updates the information already provided to the Committee on Information at its twenty-ninth session and describes activities undertaken in the past six months by the Department through its four subprogrammes: strategic communication services, news services, library services and outreach services.

II. Strategic communication services

A. Thematic issues

Peacekeeping

3. The Department of Public Information has continued to enhance its outreach on peacekeeping, particularly to troop-contributing countries. An exhibition of photographs relating to the successfully completed peacekeeping mission in Burundi opened at United Nations Headquarters in January and subsequently went on display in South Africa, a major troop contributor to that mission, and in Geneva. In connection with the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May), a multimedia exhibition featuring stories about individual peacekeepers opened at United Nations Headquarters. The exhibition, which was reproduced on the United Nations website, will travel to several countries. The Department also reached out to the home countries of those individuals and other peacekeepers, including all those memorialized on the Day, with targeted public information campaigns. This resulted in media coverage of peacekeeping in all targeted troop- and police-contributing countries. The Department of Public Information, with the support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, also produced a film for worldwide distribution.

4. The Department of Public Information United Nations *News Centre* portal, one of the most heavily visited segments on the United Nations website, and the associated United Nations *News Service*, considerably expanded their coverage of the important role played by United Nations police in peace operations around the world. Stories produced by the United Nations *News Service* also served as the basis for the inaugural issue of the *UN Police* magazine, produced in early 2007.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/62/21).

Box 1
International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

On the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, United Nations information centres and other Department of Public Information field offices carried out numerous activities, often in collaboration with local government authorities and civil society groups.

The United Nations Information Centre in Bucharest, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, organized an exhibition of photographs taken by Romanian peacekeepers and a debate on the protection of civilians in conflict areas.

The United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka and Dhaka University co-organized a seminar on the role of Bangladesh in United Nations peacekeeping.

The United Nations Information Centre in Islamabad organized a briefing session with the Senate of Pakistan.

The United Nations Office in Ukraine co-organized an international conference on the theme "United Nations peacekeeping and peacekeepers in the twenty-first century".

The United Nations Information Centre in Lima coordinated the issuance of a special report on United Nations peacekeeping with the leading daily newspaper *El Comercio*.

The United Nations Information Centre in Pretoria and the South African National Defence Force arranged a commemorative wreath-laying ceremony at the Pretoria public library.

The United Nations Information Centre in Rabat produced and distributed a special press kit.

The United Nations Information Centre in Tehran published a Persian translation of the Department of Public Information booklet *United Nations peacekeeping: meeting new challenges* on its website.

Darfur

5. The Department of Public Information raised public awareness of United Nations action with regard to Darfur through a series of briefing notes containing the most recent developments and core messages on Darfur for the use of United Nations information centres and other United Nations communications officials. A fact sheet was also produced for distribution to the general public entitled "The United Nations and Darfur". Ongoing communications work is focusing on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur.

Climate change

6. In order to better integrate communications on climate change issues throughout the United Nations system and have a greater impact, the Department of Public Information has convened a communications task force of 15 United Nations entities working on climate change with a view to setting up and implementing a system-wide strategy. The strategy is aimed at elevating the issue of climate change to the highest level of decision-making, positioning the United Nations system as a key player on the basis of its comparative advantages, identifying opportunities and deploying the most effective communications tools. The Department has coordinated inter-agency efforts to promote the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It has also identified key events on the climate change agenda that could benefit from joint communication efforts, including the General Assembly's informal thematic debate on climate change, held in July; the Secretary-General's high-level event, to be held in September; the Panel's fourth assessment report, to be released in Valencia, Spain, in November; and the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December. The Department collaborated with the task force on the development of a system-wide Internet portal, "Gateway to the United Nations system's work on climate change", which it designed and which was launched in August. The United Nations information centres have been instrumental in promoting efforts to address climate change at the national level.

Millennium Development Goals

7. This year, which marks the halfway point towards the Millennium Development Goal target date of 2015, the Department of Public Information has stepped up its efforts to promote the Goals as a priority issue. The Department has brought together more than 10 United Nations system partners with a view to developing a common communications strategy and shared messages to increase awareness of and build support for the Goals. Key activities undertaken include:

(a) The launch of the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2007*. In addition to the global launch of the report on 2 July by the Secretary-General during the substantive session the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, more than a dozen major regional and national launch events, as well as many other smaller press briefings, were organized around the world thanks to increased inter-agency cooperation and the active involvement of the United Nations information centres. This generated wide coverage, including by broadcast media such as BBC World, China Central Television, the ARD television network in Germany and TV3 and TV4 in Sweden, as well as by print media, including *The Economist*;

(b) An advance report excerpt on Africa and the Millennium Development Goals which was unveiled by the Deputy Secretary-General on 6 June at United Nations Headquarters to coincide with the Group of Eight Summit. Substantial coverage was generated in the international press (*International Herald Tribune*, Associated Press and Reuters, for example), and in North America by key media outlets including the *Washington Post*. Coverage was equally significant in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and Latin America.

8. The United Nations information centres continue to provide strong support in promoting the Millennium Development Goals. Information centres in Algiers,

Cairo, Mexico City, Moscow, Nairobi, New Delhi, Pretoria, Tokyo and Yaoundé, as well as the United Nations information service in Bangkok, were among those hosting media events to support the launch of the *Millennium Development Goals Report*.

Human rights

9. Two fact sheets on the Human Rights Council were produced: an account of its activities during its first year; and an outline of the outcome of the Council's institution-building process and the continuing role of the special procedures. The Department regularly acts as media liaison for the Council President during and between sessions in Geneva.

10. Communications support was provided for the sixth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May, the 2007 session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the celebration of International Women's Day in March. Media outreach by the Department of Public Information on these occasions resulted in wide media coverage of indigenous and women's issues.

The Question of Palestine

11. The fifteenth International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East was held in Tokyo in June on the theme "Restoring the path to peace: re-engaging Israelis and Palestinians in the search for a comprehensive and lasting political settlement". The main objective of the seminar was to promote continued dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives. Nearly 100 participants attended, including 10 Israeli representatives, among whom were a member of the Knesset, two current mayors and a former mayor; 7 Palestinians, including the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, the Mayor of Ramallah and — via videoconference — the Director of the State Information Service and Media Adviser to the President; and representatives of international media.

The Department of Public Information and the New Partnership for Africa's Development

12. The Department continued to raise public awareness of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and to generate support for its implementation. The quarterly magazine *Africa Renewal* continues to be central to this effort. It has a large per-issue readership, mostly in Africa, North America and Europe, and an additional audience online at www.un.org/AR. Key activities included:

(a) The production of a number of feature articles designed to promote NEPAD priority issues in the mass media. The most successful dealt with migration, brain drain, the Millennium Development Goals, Africa as a United Nations priority, solar power, job creation and China-Africa business ties. Publishers of these articles included *Mail & Guardian* (South Africa), *Afrika Hoje* (African lusophone countries), *East African Standard* (Kenya) and *People's Daily* (China);

(b) A series of articles on the theme "NEPAD in action", describing how the New Partnership is making a difference in the lives of Africans, was picked up by Africa-interest websites and reproduced in 64 publications, including *L'Hebdomadaire* (Burkina Faso), *Accra Daily Mail* (Ghana), *L'Essor* (Mali), *Sud Quotidien* (Senegal), *Business Day* and *Mail & Guardian* (South Africa).

Africa Renewal published a special issue on HIV/AIDS in Africa that continues to be very popular, in both English and French, with activist groups and has been reprinted in French. It is also widely requested as a teaching tool by universities and schools in Africa and North America.

Lessons from Rwanda outreach programme

13. In the context of an outreach programme on the theme "Lessons from Rwanda: the United Nations and the prevention of genocide", the Department of Public Information organized a number of events in connection with the thirteenth anniversary of the genocide in April 2007, including film screenings and discussions held by United Nations information centres in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, Panama City, Prague, Tehran and Windhoek. At United Nations Headquarters, the Department provided assistance to the Permanent Mission of Rwanda for a screening of the film *Beyond the Gates* and launched an exhibition entitled "Lessons from Rwanda" on 30 April. The Department is partnering with organizations in Africa to show English, French and Kinyarwanda versions of the exhibition throughout the remainder of 2007. Planning continued for other projects to be undertaken as part of this programme, including a website in all official languages; television and radio programmes on the lasting impact of the genocide on survivors, in particular orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence; and a photography project.

Counter-terrorism

14. Following the adoption by the General Assembly in September 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Department of Public Information launched a new counter-terrorism website that provides a user-friendly and comprehensive overview of all aspects of the United Nations system's counter-terrorism actions, with a focus on implementing the Global Strategy and highlighting the actions of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. It also hosts the Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook, designed to assist Member States in tracking United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

B. United Nations information centres

15. The 63 information centres, services and components around the world are progressively maximizing their value as strategic assets of the Department through enhanced public outreach as well as close collaboration with the United Nations country teams in their locations.

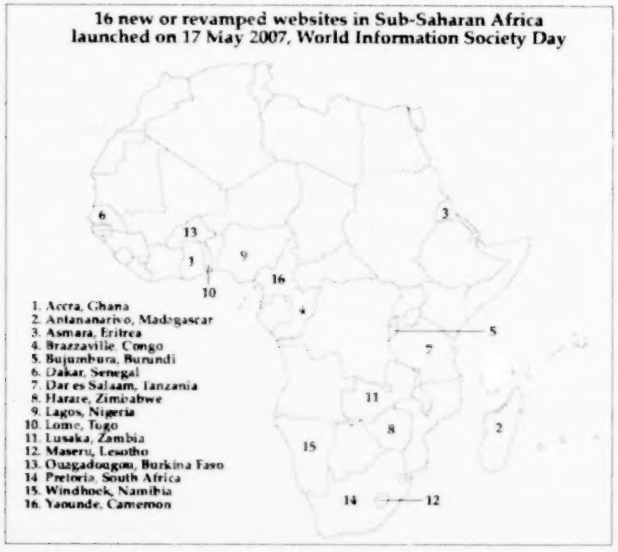
16. The Department has continued its efforts to rationalize the work of the United Nations information centres. It has strengthened the leadership of the information centres in Cairo, Mexico City and Pretoria, enabling them to assist neighbouring centres in strategic planning and work programmes. Regional communications groups have been convened to discuss common United Nations communications concerns and opportunities and to develop joint projects on key issues. In other areas, the entire network of field offices benefits from the strengths of the centres thanks to an improved system of internal communications and collaboration within the Department. For example, the Department increasingly relies on the United Nations information centres in Cairo and Mexico City for, respectively, Arabic and

Spanish translations of information material generated by Headquarters, for use both at Headquarters and by field offices. This new collaboration has increased efficiency and allowed for translations to be made available more quickly.

17. In Europe, the regional information centre in Brussels and the information services in Geneva and Vienna are also collaborating with each other and with other information centres in ways that take advantage of their respective strengths, information networks and locations.

18. Innovative forms of collaboration and resource-sharing within the field network of the Department led to a milestone achievement in terms of its outreach in Africa this year, when 16 new or revamped websites for United Nations information centres in sub-Saharan Africa were launched on 17 May, World Information Society Day. The project was made possible by the collaboration of information technology staff from the United Nations regional information centre in Brussels, United Nations information centres in the region and Department headquarters, who employed a technology that allows separate websites to be established from a common base. African centres can now concentrate on posting content without requiring individual centres to disburse funds for their own electronic architecture. As a result, the total number of websites operating in sub-Saharan Africa has grown from 4 in 2005 to 17 in 2007. All Department field offices now have functional websites delivering the United Nations message to local audiences in 33 languages.

Figure I



United Nations Communications Group at the country level

19. Since 2006, United Nations communications groups, comprising the information focal points of United Nations agencies, have been formed in nearly all of the countries where information centres are based. In most cases, the United

Nations information centre chairs the local communications group. Given the emphasis on greater United Nations system-wide coherence, United Nations information centres are playing an increasingly prominent role in communications at the country level, and the Department accords great importance to their work with the United Nations country team. This issue was the focus of a workshop for the communications officers of all of the information centres in the Americas, held in São Paulo, Brazil, in May 2007. United Nations information centres in Dar es Salaam and Islamabad are taking part in One United Nations pilot projects.

Box 2
United Nations Communications Group annual meeting in Madrid

The sixth annual meeting of principals of the United Nations Communications Group was held in Madrid at the headquarters of the World Tourism Organization on 21 and 22 June 2007, with representatives from 37 United Nations system organizations and offices in attendance. A central focus of the meeting was the role of communications and public information in the context of greater United Nations system-wide coherence, especially the One United Nations initiative. A key recommendation was to establish a closer relationship between the United Nations Communications Group and the High-Level Committee on Programmes of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, so that communications dimensions are taken into account when policy issues are brought before the Board.

Discussions also focused on three key priority areas for the United Nations system: the threat of avian and human influenza pandemics; the midpoint review of the Millennium Development Goals; and climate change. The United Nations Communications Group members agreed that they would participate in Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, under a common United Nations pavilion and that the initiative would be led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as the United Nations system's focal point.

III. News services

A. Office of the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General

20. The Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General conducts the daily noon briefing and keeps the press, delegations and the public informed, not only about the work of the Secretary-General, but also about developments throughout the United Nations system. During the past year (July 2006 to June 2007), the Spokesperson held 245 press briefings. The Office also organized 36 press conferences given by the Secretary-General at Headquarters and abroad, 76 press briefings by Member States, 130 press conferences by senior officials and 15 background briefings. In addition, the Office coordinated 97 press encounters and 114 press interviews with the Secretary-General at Headquarters and during his official visits to Member States.

B. United Nations website

21. Twelve years ago, the United Nations entered the age of the Internet with the launch of the United Nations website — www.un.org. Since 1995, the website has become an essential tool for global audiences, providing a wide range of news and information in various languages and in multiple forms. Every minute of every day, nearly 700 pages of material in the six official languages are being viewed by users; more than a million pages and more than 15,000 video clips are viewed every 24 hours.

New pages created and pages updated in first six months of 2007

	Arabic	*Chinese*	*English*	*French*	*Russian*	*Spanish*
New pages	779	1 018	872	584	1 155	641
Updated pages	2 980	3 888	3 230	1 275	2 639	4 477

22. Between September 2006 and June 2007, 21 multilingual websites were created or redesigned for, inter alia, the General Assembly, the Committee on Information and the Secretary-General. They included a database of declarations and conventions contained in General Assembly resolutions and websites for such special events as the "Water for Life" Decade and the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

23. Internet broadcasting, or webcasting, has become a cost-effective and efficient tool to deliver major United Nations events in real time to audiences around the world. During the first half of 2007, some 7 million visitors from about 200 countries and territories viewed webcasts from either live or archived webcast pages. The number of subscribers to the e-mail webcast alert system increased from 6,000 in 2006 to over 9,000 in the first half of 2007. Major achievements during the past year included the webcast of all sessions of the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council, both held in Geneva. At present, webcasts of all open meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council are available in English and the floor language. In view of the continuous increase in demand, the expansion of webcasting to include other languages is being actively pursued.

Accessibility for persons with disabilities

24. In keeping with General Assembly resolutions, the main pages of the United Nations website in the six official languages have been revised to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. These pages feature accessibility level I and II compliance with World Wide Web Consortium guidelines. Level I consists of minimum requirements, while level II requirements provide for enhanced access for persons with disabilities. All new pages created by the Web Services Section are compliant with level I, and most comply with level II. New guidelines have been put in place by the Web Services Section in order to monitor compliance with accessibility levels. Many Secretariat staff members have been trained in that connection, and the necessary software tools have been procured and installed. This new effort has, however, resulted in an increase of about 20 per cent in the average production time for new web pages.

Towards website governance and a content management system

25. Since its inception, the United Nations website has grown enormously in terms of multilingual text material and the amount of audio, graphics and video material available. There is therefore a need for a robust and secure content management system that can grow and develop. That, in turn, would lead to greater efficiencies in the management of multilingual web content as varied as that of the United Nations. Work is in progress to introduce such a content management system with a streamlined architecture, enabling easier backup of content and standardization of presentation, as well as addressing the requirement that all information technology systems be interoperable. It would also assist in the enforcement of agreed standards and ensure uniformity of statistics criteria and other web metrics among languages and a more accurate and efficient analysis of website usage.

26. A revitalized governance mechanism supported by the content management system will provide the necessary environment for facilitating the top-down rearchitecture and consolidation of existing websites, incorporating current best practices for site management, usability, disaster recovery, business continuity and security. The Department of Public Information is pursuing the issue of Internet governance with the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management and is working through the Information and Communications Technology Board and the Publications Board with a view to establishing new technical standards and an improved governance system, together with an expanded awareness, training and education programme. In preparation for the content management system, the top layers of the United Nations website are being revamped to render it more dynamic, attractive and easily navigable and to make it a true gateway to the range of information available throughout the site.

Integrated news portal

27. In keeping with the principle of the integration of websites, and recognizing the growing role of the Internet as a source of news for audiences around the world, the Department's web strategy for its news operations is oriented towards the creation of a centralized gateway to specialized pages featuring text, photographs and audio and video material and the development of an integrated multimedia platform. Revamped audio, video and photo pages, backed by increased bandwidth and storage capacity, will enable database-driven retrieval of related content in a variety of formats, from broadcast-quality radio and television news reports and feature programmes to photo galleries and webcast files.

28. As part of the overall effort to streamline and centralize sites, a recent revamping of the United Nations *News Centre* served to enhance the site's usability, navigation and graphic design, as well as to improve users' access to a wide range of news-related content, including an expanding array of the Department's multimedia products made available online. Greater emphasis on interactivity was another important aspect of the redesign, which incorporated such popular Internet tools as a most-read-stories feature and a current-events-based quiz. At the same time, several indicators testified to the increasing popularity of the United Nations *News Service*: the number of subscribers to its e-mail news alerts grew steadily to over 50,000 (English and French), as did the usage of its Really Simple Syndication feature. Moreover, its stories gained visibility on popular search engines, such as Google

News, including through increased pick-up by news aggregator sites and a variety of other media outlets.

C. Placement of opinion and editorial articles

29. As part of its continuing efforts to engage the public in the debate on a wide range of vital issues on the United Nations agenda, the Department of Public Information assisted senior United Nations officials in placing their articles in newspapers and other media outlets around the world. Over the past year, the Department used the services of a focal point at Headquarters, as well as its worldwide network of information centres, to ensure the placement of some 30 op-ed pieces, a third of them by the Secretary-General. Those articles appeared in more than 550 newspapers in multiple languages. One example of the scope of the placement effort is an article by the Secretary-General entitled "Why the world has changed in the UN's favour", which was first published in the 4 June 2007 international edition of *Newsweek* and was subsequently carried by 60 papers in 40 countries with an estimated readership of well over 5 million.

D. Other services to media

30. The Department continues to provide coverage, in the form of press releases, of all open intergovernmental meetings, as well as of press conferences. In the first six months of 2007, the Department produced a total of 1,997 such releases (8,701 pages) in English and French.

31. The Department also continues to facilitate access for media to cover United Nations activities at Headquarters and overseas by providing accreditation, liaison and other services through its Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit. From January to May 2007, the Department issued 652 permanent and 664 temporary press accreditations, performed 1,846 liaison assignments and distributed 108 media alerts to media organizations, mission press attachés and others in the United Nations system. The Department conducted 20 tours for groups of students and professional journalists and provided information and logistical assistance for 190 media stake-outs. During that period, 173 press conferences/briefings were held, attended by 5,428 journalists.

E. Radio, television and photo services

United Nations Radio

32. Aware of the important role radio can play in spreading the United Nations message, the Department has continued to strengthen its radio programming and expand its partnerships with international broadcasters. The radio website in the six official languages, as well as those in Portuguese and Kiswahili, were given major technical overhauls two years ago and the amount of material on each site has increased. The Department also posts its programming on the United Nations Radio website in four Asian languages — Bangla, Hindi, Urdu and Indonesian — as well as in French Creole.

33. The new radio pages use database-driven technology, which enables much more rapid downloading and easier, faster searching. These improvements also enable broadcasters and the general public to find a broader range of material, such as unedited interviews and speeches. The United Nations Radio News Service, funded by the United Nations Foundation, continues to serve North American and European radio audiences with short news reports, features and raw audio via the Web — a service that is being extended to other audiences.

34. The direct promotion and marketing of United Nations Radio and United Nations Television programmes and services to broadcasters through participation in industry markets and conferences has raised awareness of the United Nations as a media partner. These efforts have attracted interest from well-established producers with high-profile projects that will bring international attention to the issue of environmental degradation and other themes of importance to the United Nations.

35. Improvements in delivery systems, together with the active promotion of its programmes, have facilitated the further expansion of United Nations Radio's audience reach. The number of radio and television partners has already increased, from 317 in December 2005 to 367 in June 2007, confirming the continued increase in United Nations Radio's listeners.

United Nations Television

36. "UNifeed", an inter-agency satellite news service spearheaded by the Department in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, continues to offer timely field video six days a week to a worldwide network of international networks via the world's largest television news agency, Associated Press Television News, and the European Broadcasting Union. The Department is also planning to make video news stories available in broadcast quality on the Web in the next few months.

37. With a view to offering a more in-depth perspective on United Nations issues, a 26-minute television news magazine show, *21st Century*, was launched in January and is being used by more than 30 television stations. This dynamic, polished programme has replaced *World Chronicle*, a talk show that was no longer attracting audiences, according to a survey commissioned by the Department. The production of *UN in Action*, a weekly feature on the work of the United Nations, continues, as does the United Nations contribution to *CNN World Report*. A United Nations Television story on child brides was recently honoured by CNN with the Best Feature Report award.

United Nations Photo

38. The Department has adopted a multipronged approach to harnessing technology to produce audio-visual content in the formats desired by current media consumers and to streamline its own internal production and distribution mechanisms.

39. The digital photo system — Networked Interactive Content Access — is being enriched with up-to-date images captured at United Nations Headquarters and in many parts of the world, while a large number of legacy photographs from the archives are being restored. With the assistance of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, cooperative arrangements are being established with various

peacekeeping missions to swap high-resolution images through an enhanced File Transfer Protocol mechanism. This will be further improved through a strengthened delivery and storage mechanism.

40. To facilitate the distribution of United Nations photographs, the United Nations Photo website has been upgraded to enable requests for high-resolution photographs to be filled online, thereby providing faster service to clients and decreasing the workload for the photo service staff, while also providing improved data on the users of United Nations photographs. The site also recently added most-downloaded-photos and most-viewed-photos pages, offering a greater level of interactivity with the site for visitors. The Department has been working closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in showcasing thematic collections of photographs in various locations at United Nations Headquarters.

41. The Department is now preparing to transform its conventional print photo boards on the third floor of the Secretariat Building and at the entrance to the cafeteria into a state-of-the-art high-definition electronic photo display system. The Department will also install a similar large-format electronic photo display in the public lobby, where high-resolution videos, promotional trailers and public service announcements can also be shown to publicize the work of the Department and the United Nations in general.

F. Print products

42. A new edition of *Basic Facts About the United Nations* is being prepared and will be submitted for printing before the end of 2007. *United Nations in Brief* will be updated in 2008, as will the online Image & Reality.

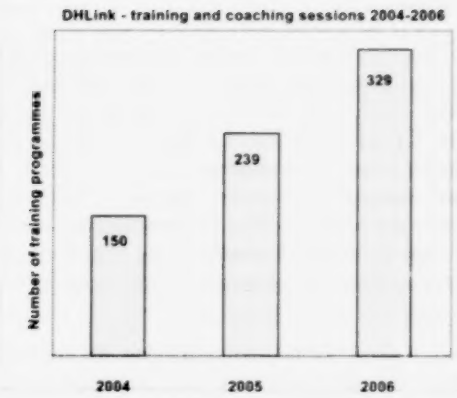
IV. Library services

A. Library and knowledge services

43. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues its transition to a knowledge service for the Organization following the direction set in the report of the Secretary-General on new strategic directions for United Nations libraries (A/AC.198/2005/4) and its follow-up report (A/AC.198/2006/2).

44. Through the Personal Knowledge Management programme and the Library's ongoing training programmes, the information needs of Secretariat and mission staff are addressed in a customized way for the user. The Personnel Knowledge Management initiative helps individuals to understand how to better create, manage and access information and to improve their utilization of the vast array of technology tools at their disposal. The Library's training programmes were revised in 2007 to more closely address the changing needs of clients and now include courses on such subjects as how to search the Internet and how to find information on sustainable development. Training in non-English language resources on the Web is being organized.

Figure II



45. Support for the One United Nations initiative through internal communications for the Secretariat has been one of the Library's most visible activities. The Library promotes the active use of iSeek, the Intranet of the Secretariat, as the internal communications tool at all duty stations and is seeking to strengthen the network of iSeek focal points. The Department has also encouraged all United Nations funds and programmes to access iSeek on the basis of reciprocal access agreements to their respective Intranets. In June 2007, iSeek became available to the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat in Addis Ababa. The United Nations Office at Nairobi is also planning to use iSeek as its primary internal communications tool by the third quarter of 2007.

46. The Library is working more actively on outreach through the transformation of its depository library programme to reflect the changing role of libraries. Activities to support new methods of disseminating United Nations information through partnerships with United Nations information centres and depository libraries in developing countries are being developed. A regional workshop to promote knowledge sharing on the theme "Creating partnerships with libraries in Asia", organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Bangkok in October, will provide an opportunity to discuss those new approaches with participating libraries.

47. Access to information via electronic means is increasingly important for the work of the Secretariat and missions. Through its management of the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium, the Library has facilitated access to high-quality information resources within the United Nations and in United Nations system offices throughout the world. Given the planned relocation of the Library's collections over an extended period during the capital master plan renovations, this transition to electronic access is especially crucial.

48. Providing access to important older United Nations documentation is a priority for the Library, which is partnering with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to increase the speed of retrospective digitization, since access to electronic information is increasingly becoming an imperative.

B. Educational outreach

49. Given that half of the world's population is under 25 years of age, engaging children and youth in and out of the classroom is critical to the future success of the United Nations. The Department's Educational Outreach Section has refocused its strategies by leveraging the digital revolution, the influence of celebrities and the global reach of media networks to make United Nations outreach more accessible to this key demographic group.

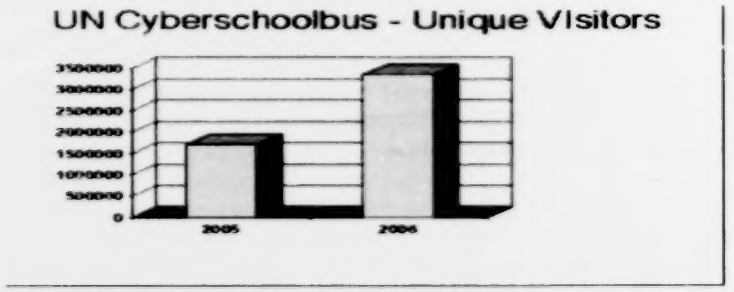
The United Nations Works programme

50. The United Nations Works programme has developed a strategic collaboration with MTV Networks, which has 164 channels in 103 countries and over a billion viewers, to educate and engage young people through television specials, news segments, website, radio and television spots and free online classroom resources. Following the success of the water and sanitation campaign featuring the hip-hop artist Jay-Z, United Nations Works and VH1/MTV Networks are engaging in multiplatform outreach about the Millennium Development Goals. This will include a celebrity-hosted television series and an online action centre to encourage young people to get involved. Outreach will also include non-traditional viewing platforms, including computers, mobile phones, portable media players and similar devices.

United Nations Cyberschoolbus

51. The number of unique visitors to the United Nations Cyberschoolbus website, which is part of the Department's Global Teaching and Learning Project, increased from 1,710,618 in 2005 to 3,342,889 in 2006. That represents a 95 per cent increase in the growth of users around the world. The number of page views increased during the same period by 20 per cent — from 10,499,604 in 2005 to 12,594,144 in 2006.

Figure III



Graphic design

52. The Department of Public Information continues to create visual branding for United Nations global campaigns on key issues. Notable examples include the award-winning poster design for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, logo designs in connection with indigenous peoples and book designs for United Nations publications.

V. Outreach services

A. Services to civil society

Academic initiatives

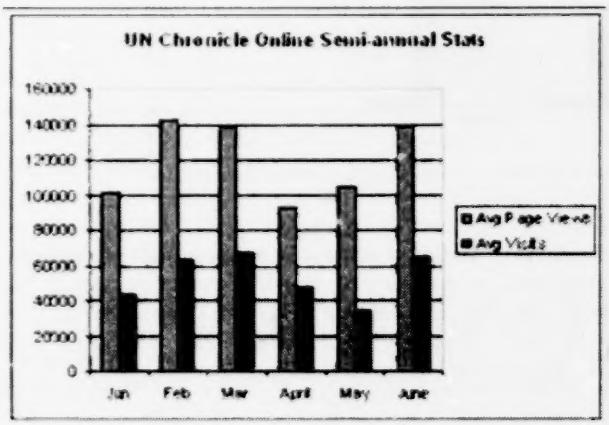
53. The Department continues to expand and deepen its relationship with the academic community, research institutions, civil society organizations and students. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* and the *UN Chronicle* are a key part of these efforts.

54. Each issue of *UN Chronicle* magazine is now devoted to one major theme of priority concern for the United Nations. For 2007, the themes are the United Nations, the Secretary-General and our lives (issue 1); climate change (issue 2); racial discrimination (issue 3); and the Millennium Development Goals (issue 4). The issue on climate change attracted exclusive contributions from the Secretary-General and high-level political leaders engaged in the international debate on climate change, including Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller of Jamaica, Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand and Prime Minister Apisai Ielemia of Tuvalu. The journal's high-level discourse is complemented by United Nations expert analyses of the impact of global warming and policy decisions at the regional and national levels.

55. In 2007, *UN Chronicle Online* will launch a redesigned website in all six official languages offering each issue of *UN Chronicle* magazine, as well as regular online-only content.

56. From January to June 2007, the *UN Chronicle Online* version in English registered an average of 120,000 page views per month — an increase of 21 per cent over the monthly average for 2006. Also in that period, the French online version, *Chronique ONU: Edition en ligne*, registered an average of 53,000 page views per month — a 28 per cent increase over the monthly average for the comparable period the previous year. Many of the journal's articles are reprinted, posted online, used in classrooms and cited in scholarly articles and books.

Figure IV



57. *UN Chronicle* e-Alerts have been sent to subscribers, posted on the Organization's Intranet, iSeek, for United Nations staff worldwide and distributed to educators and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) associated with the Department of Public Information.

58. Other academic outreach activities include the ongoing videoconferencing programme with students, professors and United Nations staff on issues of priority for the Organization. In April 2007, two such events — one on Darfur and one on inter-religious dialogue — were held in collaboration with the Global Consortium based at Cerritos College, California. Connections were also established with other colleges, in Cambodia, Germany and the United States of America, as well as in New Zealand and the wider Pacific Rim area. The Department also collaborated with the Film Your Issue competition, founded by an NGO in California, which encourages young people to produce short films on social and political issues of importance to them. This year, with the assistance of the network of United Nations information centres, the competition was extended for the first time beyond the United States, reaching out to youth in more than 50 countries. The Department included in the competition a special category for films on the issues of peace, tolerance and international migration and offered a certificate for the best film in that category. Other partners involved in the competition were *USA Today*, Yahoo!, Jumpcut, the cable network Starz and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

59. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* has since 1946 covered in detail United Nations proceedings, activities and bodies. It remains the primary authoritative reference work on the Organization, offering a comprehensive review of United Nations efforts in the service of humanity and of the ways in which international cooperation is working to better the lives of the world's peoples. Each edition is fully indexed and reproduces in full the texts of, and votes on, all major General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* continues to be widely consulted by diplomats, Government officials, scholars, journalists and others interested in the study of international and United Nations affairs.

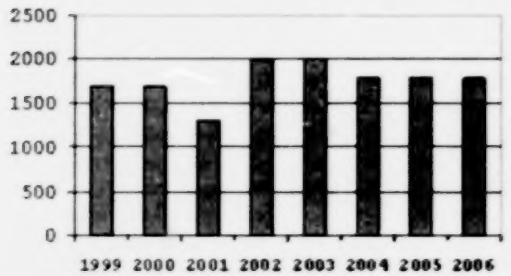
Non-governmental organizations

60. The Department of Public Information is tasked with managing the relationship between the Department and the 1,624 NGOs currently associated with it. Its weekly briefings, during which topics such as human trafficking, peacekeeping, partnership with the private sector and freedom of the press are discussed in an interactive and informative manner, provide a forum where NGOs can exchange views on issues closely identified with the work of the United Nations worldwide. NGOs have access to updated information about the United Nations, as well as United Nations publications, through the NGO Resource Centre, and use that venue for meetings and networking.

61. The Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, whose 18 members are elected by those NGOs, acts as the liaison between the NGO community and the Department. The three annual full-day communications workshops and the annual conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations are organized in partnership with that Committee.

62. The sixtieth annual Conference is scheduled to be held from 5 to 7 September 2007. Entitled "Climate change: how it impacts us all", the event will focus on the growing concerns associated with climate change and its profound and decisive impact on human well-being. The Conference aims to provide the necessary knowledge and inspiration for participants to carry their efforts forward. It will offer a solutions-oriented approach designed to encourage participants to create individual action plans to address this global challenge. In addition to three plenary sessions and seven round tables, there will be some 30 midday workshops in which representatives of civil society, the United Nations, Governments and the private sector will participate.

Figure V
NGO representatives at the annual Conference



Public relations

63. The Department responds to and makes contact with the general public through a number of services: responding to enquiries, mounting exhibitions in public areas at Headquarters, conducting guided tours, providing briefings and special programmes for educational institutions and other groups and organizing special events to generate interest in United Nations-related issues. As part of its efforts to reach the public, the Department organizes a six-week intensive programme on United Nations affairs for 15 journalists from developing countries.

Responses to public enquiries

64. Information about the United Nations and its activities is provided in response to letters, e-mails and facsimiles from the public and queries by telephone or in-person visits. Fact sheets and briefing papers are prepared and a website is maintained in all six official languages of the United Nations. Two main educational booklets have been reissued: *This is the UN*, an introduction to the Organization and major United Nations issues; and the more comprehensive *Everything you always wanted to know about the UN*.

Student observance

65. In June, the seventh annual videoconference student observance for World Environment Day was organized by the Department in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, linking students in Canada, Pakistan and the United States. The theme of the discussion was "Melting ice: a hot topic?" A student videoconference is planned to mark the International Day of Peace on 21 September, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations, peacekeeping missions and the Messengers of Peace programme. Last year's observance at United Nations Headquarters was attended by over 700 students and 6 Messengers of Peace. United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Kosovo participated via satellite. Another, similar, event will be the tenth annual student observance of Human Rights Day, to be held in December 2007.

Guided tours and briefings for visitors

66. For the fifth consecutive year, the guided tour operation saw an increase in the number of visitors buying tickets for tours of the United Nations Headquarters (437,000 in 2006). However, this trend will be completely reversed during the closure of the building to the public for several years during renovations. In conjunction with the tour, visiting groups often request briefings by United Nations officials on a wide range of United Nations-related topics. These briefings, as well as outside speaking engagements and videoconferences, are organized by the Department, which manages the United Nations Speakers' Bureau. From 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, it organized 1 850 in-house briefings, 43 outside speaking engagements and 13 videoconferences.

Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassador programmes

67. The Department continues to oversee the Messengers of Peace programme and serves as the focal point for the system-wide Goodwill Ambassador programme. Both programmes enlist the volunteer services of prominent individuals to highlight issues of priority for the Organization. The Secretary-General is in the process of considering the appointment of new Messengers of Peace. In March, United Nations Messenger of Peace Anna Cataldi opened a photo exhibition entitled "A world free of TB", organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with the Department of Public Information. Ms. Cataldi also briefed NGOs and launched the 2007 WHO report *Global Tuberculosis Control* to help draw attention to the fact that tuberculosis is one of the world's leading infectious diseases — second only to HIV/AIDS.

The Holocaust and the United Nations outreach programme

68. The Holocaust and the United Nations outreach programme expanded its efforts to include worldwide training on the Holocaust and measures for genocide prevention for information officers from the United Nations information centres, the first of which was held for centres in the Americas region at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in May. It also launched an online pedagogical tool in English and French to support the development of educational curricula by Member States, "Electronic notes for speakers", and created an educational exhibition on the Holocaust for the guided tours route at Headquarters in New York. The Department also held the second annual ceremony for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, which highlighted the rights of the disabled and the importance of education in eliminating discrimination. Two exhibitions were mounted to mark the occasion, one on the Roma and Sinti peoples and another featuring artwork of Holocaust survivors. As part of its ongoing film series, the programme screened *I Only Wanted to Live* and *Spell Your Name*, as well as the premiere of the award-winning documentary *Steal a Pencil for Me*. Discussion papers were drafted by Simone Veil (France) and Xu Xin (China).

Presentations were given to students at McGill University (Canada), the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged, B'Nai B'rith and the New York City-based Holocaust Memorial Committee. Commemorative posters and information cards were published in English, French and Spanish.

B. Publishing activities

69. The Department of Public Information continues to extend the reach of the publishing activities of the United Nations and its agencies through its offices and bookshops in Geneva and New York, via 90 sales agents in 61 countries and by means of its e-commerce driven website. The website was redesigned in June, making it easier to navigate, and new search features were added. During the period under review, a new programme to sell electronic (PDF) versions of selected publications was launched. The site is adding about 300 new customers every month and currently features over 6,000 available books and related products.

70. United Nations bookshops continue to serve delegates, staff and visitors in New York and Geneva. In Geneva, the Department is working with the United Nations Postal Administration to operate a counter for sales of publications and stamp products, providing an additional outlet for the community there. The proposed closure of the General Assembly Building because of the capital master plan will greatly affect the United Nations Bookshop. In order to continue serving the community at Headquarters, the Bookshop is exploring various options.

71. The Department of Public Information worked with 15 agencies, including all the major multilateral development banks, to publish more than 3,000 procurement notices during the first five months of the year in print and online versions of *UN Development Business*. That represents a 12.7 per cent increase over 2006 in terms of output, with more than 2,000 subscribers in over 100 countries.

VI. A culture of evaluation

72. Renewing its commitment to maintaining a culture of evaluation through the assessment of strategic priorities, the Department is taking steps to form stronger linkages across its divisions. These include undertaking assessments and evaluations as part of the annual programme impact review that will focus on specific thematic priorities with a view to deriving lessons relevant to the Department as a whole. The Department continues to enhance its strategic approach by continuously responding to feedback from users and clients on its products and activities. Two recent examples can be cited:

(a) According to a survey by *UN Chronicle Online*, 80 per cent of respondents said that they found it to be a highly satisfactory publication on United Nations-related issues. The vast majority — 90 per cent — indicated that their understanding of United Nations issues and activities had improved as a result of reading the online magazine. Comparing it to other sources covering the issues and activities of the United Nations, 52 per cent said that the *UN Chronicle* was as good as, and 40 per cent said it was better than, most sources. With reference to the survey results, the *UN Chronicle* is being sharpened to better meet the needs of its

readership through the provision of more thought-provoking features and information in its online edition; at the same time, it is working to increase its readership by the online placement of editions in all six languages;

(b) After three years of highlighting underreported issues and stories to the global media, the Department of Public Information sought feedback from its United Nations system partners on the initiative, "Ten stories the world should hear more about". Overall, 75 per cent of survey respondents expressed satisfaction with the general value of the project. In terms of gauging the Department's role in coordinating and leading the "Ten stories" project, 80 per cent declared satisfaction. Over 70 per cent of respondents also asserted that they were satisfied with the promotional activities (press releases, media placement) carried out by the Department. The majority of respondents agreed that the project should continue in its current form or with some modifications, and the Department is currently reviewing possible changes to the project in the light of those suggestions.

VII. Conclusion

73. In the fulfilment of its mission to strategically communicate the work and purposes of the United Nations to achieve the greatest public impact, the Department continues to tell the United Nations story to people throughout the world through the use of both traditional means of communication and new information and communications technologies. Through innovation, creativity and partnership with the public and private sectors, it provides targeted delivery of information, builds greater grass-roots support for the Organization and connects with new audiences. Adopting a strategic approach to its work, it has been able to set priorities in a manner that has enabled it to do not only what is most pressing, but also what is most achievable — and to do it where it can have the greatest impact. This has been achieved through closer consultations with Secretariat departments, greater system-wide coordination and the systematic evaluation of its activities. The Department intends to strengthen this integrated approach, which has proved to be practical and effective, in developing and implementing sound communications strategies on key issues for the Organization.

United Nations A/62/206

General Assembly

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3 August 2007

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Sixty-second session
Item 87 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been submitted in compliance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 61/38. It highlights arrangements in the Secretariat related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; the operational changes that have occurred in the light of the shift in focus in the procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees towards targeted sanctions; and recent developments concerning the activities of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

* A/62/150.

07-45164 (E) 300807

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/38, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. The present report has been prepared in compliance with that request.

II. Measures for further improvement of the procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

2. As noted in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/61/304), the Council agreed, in a note by the President of the Council (S/2005/841), to extend the mandate of its Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions until 31 December 2006 with the task of developing general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions. In the same note, the President of the Council observed that the Working Group would address issues such as the assessment of the unintended impact of sanctions and ways to assist affected untargeted States.

3. During the period under review, by a letter dated 18 December 2006, the Chairman of the Working Group transmitted the Working Group's report to the Security Council (see S/2006/997, annex). Several of the recommendations and best practices contained in that report related to improved sanctions design and monitoring; however, the report did not contain any recommendations that explicitly referred to ways to assist untargeted States affected by the unintended impact of sanctions. By its resolution 1732 (2006), the Security Council decided that the Working Group had fulfilled its mandate as contained in document S/2005/841, and took note with interest of the best practices and methods contained in the Working Group's report and requested its subsidiary bodies to take note as well.

4. During the period under review, and in keeping with the Security Council's shift from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions, there were no pre-assessment reports or ongoing assessment reports concerning the likely or actual unintended impact of sanctions on third States.

5. Some reports mandated by the Security Council touched upon the socio-economic and humanitarian impact of sanctions in the target States (see S/2006/976 and S/2007/340 in connection with Liberia; and S/2007/68 in connection with the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Following the expiry on 20 June 2006 of the timber sanctions imposed on Liberia and the termination on 27 April 2007 of the diamond sanctions imposed on that country, in establishing a new Panel of Experts on Liberia the Security Council did not include in that Panel's mandate any assessment of the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of the Council's remaining measures (see resolution 1760 (2007)).

6. In the period under review, and again in keeping with the Security Council's shift from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions, no sanctions

committees were approached by Member States concerning special economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions.

7. In every case in which the Security Council has decided that States shall freeze the assets owned or controlled by designated individuals and entities, the Council has also adopted exceptions by which States can signal to the relevant sanctions committee their intention to authorize access to frozen funds for a variety of basic and extraordinary expenses.[1] Such expenses can include, inter alia, payment for taxes, insurance premiums and public utility charges, or for payment of reasonable professional fees and reimbursement of incurred expenses associated with the provision of legal services, or fees or service charges, in accordance with national laws, for routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds, other financial assets and economic resources.

8. Furthermore, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 1737 (2006), the Security Council decided that the assets freeze imposed by the same resolution would not prevent a designated person or entity from making payment due under a contract entered into prior to the listing of such a person or entity, provided that the conditions contained in subparagraphs 15 (a) and 15 (b) had been met, and after notification by the relevant States to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) of the intention to make or receive such payments or to authorize, where appropriate, the unfreezing of funds, other financial assets or economic resources for that purpose, 10 working days prior to such authorization.

9. On 21 June 2007, in his second 90-day report to the Security Council, prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of resolution 1737 (2006), the Chairman of the Committee stated that, pursuant to paragraph 15, which did not require a Committee decision, the Committee had received 10 notifications of the receipt of payment or the unfreezing of assets in connection with contracts entered into prior to the listing of certain entities (see S/PV.5702). Thus the provisions contained in paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 1737 (2006), as well as the exceptions to the assets freeze for basic and extraordinary expenses,[1] can help to mitigate economic burdens on the targeted individuals arising from the implementation of Security Council assets freezes.

III. Recent developments related to the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

10. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 59/45, the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have continued to play their respective roles in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.[2]

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[1] See Council resolutions 1452 (2002), 1532 (2004), 1572 (2004), 1591 (2005), 1596 (2005), 1718 (2006) and 1737 (2006).

[2] During the period under review, there were no developments in the Committee for Programme and Coordination in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

A. General Assembly

11. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization met from 7 to 15 February 2007. Chapter III.A of the report of the Special Committee contains a summary of the discussions on the question of the implementation of the Charter provisions related to assistance to third States affected by sanctions.[3]

B. Economic and Social Council

12. Pursuant to its decision 2000/32, the Economic and Social Council decided to include, in the general segment of the agenda of its substantive session of 2007, sub-item 13 (j) entitled "Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions". No advance documentation was requested. The Council considered the matter but took no action under that sub-item.

IV. Arrangements in the Secretariat related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

13. In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,[4] the competent units within the Secretariat have maintained their capacity to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions. However, recent innovations in the design and implementation of sanctions regimes have led to the increased application of targeted sanctions rather than comprehensive sanctions. Modifications in the nature of sanctions have implications for the work that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat was asked to carry out in this area, namely, the development of a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences of sanctions actually incurred by third States and the search for practical and innovative measures of assistance to the affected third States.

14. The need to explore practical and innovative measures of assistance to the affected third States has been reduced considerably because targeted sanctions have led to significant reductions in unintended economic consequences for third States. Thus, appraisals of adverse consequences of sanctions actually incurred by third States have been replaced by detailed case-by-case assessments of the effectiveness of targeted sanctions and their adverse impact on innocent civilians in target and non-target States. As noted in paragraph 6 above, there has not been an appeal for remedy and relief of economic problems caused by sanctions under the provisions of Article 50 of the Charter since 2003.

15. In years past, there was frequent resort to comprehensive sanctions. The basic methodological approach to monitoring and assessing the impact of sanctions on third States was first developed in 1996, as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/317, paras. 16-34). Those procedures were further refined and updated in 1997 with technical input from the International Monetary Fund, the

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/62/33).

[4] See resolutions 50/51, 51/208, 52/162, 53/107, 54/107, 55/157, 56/87, 57/25, 58/80 and 59/45.

World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/308, paras. 6-12).

16. The economic impact of sanctions on third States was monitored and measured primarily through changes in the various channels that linked targeted and non-targeted States in commercial and related transactions. Although it was recognized that no uniform methodology could capture the impact of sanctions in all circumstances, economic losses of third States were measured or estimated on a case-by-case basis as disruptions in international trade and financial flows, lost opportunities for investment and other commercial activities and adverse impacts on the country's gross domestic product and other macroeconomic variables.

17. An ad hoc expert group meeting convened in 1998 by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced several new techniques to improve impact-assessment methods. The recommendations of the expert group contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/312, paras. 6-57) expanded the range of analytical methods that could be used to monitor and assess the impact of sanctions. In addition to focusing on economic losses, the improved methodology made provision for estimates of the social costs of sanctions, which are measured in observed deteriorations in health, education and other aspects of social development in target and non-target countries.

18. Sanctions monitoring activities under targeted sanctions regimes differ from the arrangements put in place in the Secretariat in 1996, as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/317, paras. 4-11) as well as in his reports of 1997 and 2002 (A/52/308, para. 5, and A/57/165, para. 9), to monitor comprehensive sanctions. Although the existing arrangements continue to apply, they do not reflect the changes that have occurred to monitor targeted sanctions.

19. Targeted sanctions range from freezes on financial assets of individuals or groups in the target country, travel bans imposed on individuals, selective restrictions on international trade and other commercial transactions, particularly trade in arms and military hardware, and any other restrictions deemed by the Security Council as being likely to produce the desired effect. Independent experts now monitor the implementation of sanctions. The experts are selected for their knowledge, skills and experience. Assessments are conducted through field missions to the target countries and regions and through other appropriate investigative approaches. The reports and recommendations of the expert groups are transmitted to the Security Council through its sanctions committees.

20. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs could be called upon to complement or support the work of expert groups and sanctions committees in monitoring the impact and effectiveness of targeted sanctions. However, the present Secretariat arrangements are based on existing resources at the time of implementation. Significant changes in those arrangements would require new or revised legislative authorization and adequate budgetary resources.

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Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 9

The last sentence of the paragraph *should read*

> Thus the provisions contained in paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 1737 (2006), as well as the exceptions to the assets freeze for basic and extraordinary expenses,[1] can help to mitigate economic burdens arising from the implementation of Security Council assets freezes.

[1] See Council resolutions 1452 (2002), 1532 (2004), 1572 (2004), 1591 (2005), 1596 (2005), 1718 (2006) and 1737 (2006).

* A/62/150.

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United Nations A/62/207

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Sixty-second session
Item 72 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Civil and political rights, including the questions of independence of the judiciary, administration of justice and impunity

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Leandro Despouy, submitted in accordance with resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council.

* A/62/150.

07-45170 (E) 240807 300807

Summary

The present report identifies the issues that have been of greatest concern to the Special Rapporteur during 2007 and since the issuance, early in the year, of his reports on activities undertaken during 2006, which were submitted to the Human Rights Council in June 2007. In this, his third report to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur lists the international conferences he has attended and the meetings held with various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders with the aim of planning future missions and following up past missions. The Special Rapporteur also reports on two missions he carried out in 2007, to Maldives and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and records some of his principal recommendations.

The report offers a general panorama of the situations and circumstances that have the most impact on the independence of the judiciary, from the operational to the structural. It is based on an analysis of the Special Rapporteur's many involvements from 1994 to 2006. One of the conclusions he has reached is that the judicial actors in the majority of countries are unable to discharge their functions independently and — all too frequently — find that their own and their families' protection and safety are jeopardized. In this regard, he urges States to adopt specific measures to guarantee these persons' security and independence. He also urges the United Nations to attach priority to the defence of justice in its analysis of institutional matters and to give precedence to the justice sector in its support and technical cooperation activities.

The Special Rapporteur draws the attention of the General Assembly to the repeated violations of the right to a fair trial and other human rights which occur during states of emergency. In this respect, the Special Rapporteur informs the Assembly that the Human Rights Council received favourably his proposal that a seminar of experts should be arranged to study the impact of states of emergency on human rights. The seminar, to be held towards the end of 2007, will have as its objective the recommendation of appropriate solutions to the Human Rights Council, such as the adoption of a declaration stating the human rights principles that should be observed throughout a state of emergency.

Lastly, the Special Rapporteur analyses the situation with respect to international justice. He reviews developments at the International Criminal Court and the situation in Iraq, especially with respect to the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal, both of them issues covered in his earlier reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. He also continues his analysis of the activities of the Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia.

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I. Introduction

1. This is the third report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to the General Assembly. It describes his most recent activities, including his missions to Maldives and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also addresses various substantive issues: conditions influencing the administration of justice and the independence of judges, prosecutors and lawyers; states of emergency and their impact on the rule of law; and access to justice. Lastly, in the light of the most recent information available, it continues its review of developments at the International Criminal Court, the situation in Iraq, especially with regard to the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal, and the Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia.

II. Activities of the Special Rapporteur

A. Activities to date

2. From 11 to 20 June 2007, in Geneva, the Special Rapporteur participated in the fourteenth annual meeting on the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the fifth session of the Human Rights Council. At that session of the Council, the Special Rapporteur introduced the annual report, the report on communications sent to Governments and their replies, and reports on the missions undertaken to Maldives and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, the Special Rapporteur met with the representatives of various permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva, in order to coordinate preparations for scheduled missions, and with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations and of various United Nations human rights bodies. He also gave a presentation on states of emergency and their impact on the observance of human rights; in it he emphasized the importance of organizing a seminar with a view to adopting a declaration on the subject. He participated as a speaker in two seminars: one on the right to the truth and the other on the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal.

3. On 28 and 29 June 2007, the Special Rapporteur participated in a meeting of the Supreme Courts of Justice of the Andean region organized by the Supreme Court of Ecuador, whose constitution and integration he had himself promoted in 2005, together with the United Nations and the Organization of American States, when the judges making up the Ecuadorian Court were dismissed in breach of the Constitution, giving rise to a serious institutional crisis. On that occasion, the Special Rapporteur addressed the issue of judicial independence and access to justice and referred to the international principles that govern judicial independence.

4. At the academic level, the Special Rapporteur gave a lecture on the future of international law at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, in May 2006, within the framework of the second conference of the European Society of International Law. In December 2006, the Special Rapporteur was invited by the American Society of International Law and the Harvard Law School to participate in a seminar on the topic "Transnational Judicial Dialogue: Strengthening Networks and Mechanisms for Judicial Consultation and Cooperation". On that occasion, he submitted a written paper entitled "Perspectives on Judicial Dialogue and Cooperation" (see http://www.harvardilj.org/online/107).

B. Future activities

5. The Special Rapporteur intends to undertake a mission to the Russian Federation at the end of 2007 or in the first half of 2008 and to Guatemala in the first half of 2008. He is also planning missions to Fiji, Cambodia and the Philippines and is hoping for early replies from the Governments so that these important missions can take place as soon as possible. He likewise looks forward to affirmative replies in response to his requests for visits sent to the Governments of Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, so that missions to these countries can be undertaken in the near future.

III. Missions

A. Mission to Maldives

6. From 25 February to 1 March 2007, the Special Rapporteur visited Maldives, at the invitation of its Government, in order to assist the latter with the implementation of a series of legal reforms within the framework of a comprehensive reform plan adopted by the President of the Republic in March 2006, especially with respect to constitutional and legal reforms aimed at establishing an independent judiciary and a system of real and effective separation of powers. In the course of his mission, the Special Rapporteur met with the President of the Republic, various ministers, judicial officials, representatives of the Maldivian legal community, members of non-governmental organizations and representatives of political parties, who briefed him on current issues relating to the functioning and independence of the judiciary in Maldives. The Special Rapporteur also interviewed detainees in the Maafushi prison.

7. The Special Rapporteur thanks the Government of Maldives for giving him the opportunity to analyse the state of the judiciary and review the current status and scope of the reforms aimed at bringing the judiciary into line with the international commitments assumed by Maldives, especially those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which were recently ratified by Maldives. He values very highly the concern and interest shown by the Government in progressing rapidly towards this goal.

8. The report on the visit (A/HRC/4/25/Add.2) is intended to provide an overview of the judiciary in Maldives and the difficulties faced by the main actors in the administration of justice. The visit showed that the current state of the judiciary in Maldives needs urgent, in-depth reforms to enable the judiciary to meet the minimum international criteria for independence and efficiency in a democratic system. These goals can be attained through dialogue between the political forces in the country, with, if requested by the Government of Maldives, the support of technical and financial assistance from the international community.

9. Currently, the judiciary in Maldives is under the authority of the President of the Republic and therefore lacks the necessary independence to perform its basic role of administering fair and independent justice and safeguarding and protecting the exercise and enjoyment of human rights.

10. As to fulfilment of due process rights and guarantees, it is commonplace to find pretrial detention without appropriate judicial review, trials in which the

accused lacks legal representation, and criminal investigations handled solely by the police without the necessary judicial review by prosecutors or judges. This poses serious problems for due process rights and guarantees during the investigative phase. Among other findings, the Special Rapporteur noted a serious shortage of judges and lawyers in the greater part of Maldives as a consequence of, inter alia, the country's geographical configuration and lack of internal capacity to provide appropriate legal education and training — principally in the area of common law — for future legal professionals.

11. Concerning the prosecution services, the Special Rapporteur recommends the establishment of a post for a Prosecutor-General, who should be completely independent from the executive branch and should play a major role in police investigations.

12. The Special Rapporteur observed that some positive work on the codification of Maldivian legislation had been undertaken. In particular, a new Penal Code and a new Criminal Procedure Code were being prepared, with a view to harmonizing sharia law and common law.

13. Concerning the legal profession, the Special Rapporteur confirmed the serious shortage of lawyers in Maldives, in particular in the criminal justice system, which severely compromises the right to a defence. Also, the independence of lawyers is not guaranteed, as there is no bar association, and the Ministry of Justice deals with all disciplinary matters and is empowered to issue and withdraw licences to practise. The Special Rapporteur recommends that an autonomous bar association should be established in order to provide lawyers with the independence required for the exercise of their profession. It should be responsible, in particular, for creating a common examination governing access to the legal profession, for issuing and withdrawing licences, for guaranteeing minimum standards for the exercise of the legal profession, for deciding disciplinary matters and, in general, for the independent representation of the interests of the legal profession.

14. The Special Rapporteur noted with extreme concern the drastic increases in trafficking and consumption of drugs, which are having a major impact on the country. When visiting the Maafushi prison, he witnessed the punitive approach of the criminal justice system, which had the effect of criminalizing young drug users and imposing harsh prison sentences. In the absence of programmes of prevention and rehabilitation, offenders were not being reintegrated into society; rather, there were high levels of repeat offences. That fact demonstrated the failure of the current criminal justice system and the need to devise and implement prevention and rehabilitation programmes on an urgent basis.

15. There is definitely an urgent need for in-depth reforms in the Maldivian judicial system, in conformity with minimum international criteria for independence and efficiency in a democratic system. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur emphasizes and welcomes the Government's decision to embark on a sweeping constitutional and legislative reform aimed at, among other things, establishing a real and effective separation of powers, guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and holding the country's first democratic elections in 2008.

16. The Special Rapporteur attaches the utmost importance to the early adoption of the draft Constitution that is under review by the Special Majlis (Constitutional Assembly). He regrets that the deadline of 31 May 2007 for the adoption of the new Constitution could not be met, the negotiations between the members of the Special Majlis having stalled owing to the interruption of talks between the representatives

of the principal political parties. However, the Special Rapporteur welcomes the fact that the Special Majlis reached an agreement on 11 June establishing that the constitutional reform will be adopted by 30 November 2007. In this respect, he urges the principal political actors and all the members of the Special Majlis to continue their work within the framework of a sustained and flexible exchange between the various actors, with a view to adopting the draft of the new Constitution prior to the new deadline. Observance of this deadline is essential, so that the other reforms contemplated in the Government's Road Map, which are of critical importance to the establishment of democracy in the country, can be implemented.

17. The Special Rapporteur is most gratified to note the appointment of the first women judges in the country's history, three women having been designated in July. Given that the appointment of women judges had been one of the most pressing recommendations in his report, the Special Rapporteur commends the Maldivian authorities for taking this significant step and encourages them to continue to implement effective measures in order to end gender discrimination in the judiciary.

18. In conclusion, the Special Rapporteur offers his support to all in the Government, the judiciary and civil society who are striving to achieve an independent, impartial, effective and transparent judicial system in Maldives. To this end, he urges the international community to provide to the Government of Maldives, at this key moment in the country's history, the kind and level of sustainable assistance that is indispensable for reaching the goals described and ensuring that the country succeeds in its transition to democracy. In particular, he urges the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and the international organizations of jurists, such as the International Association of Judges, the International Bar Association and the International Commission of Jurists to offer the necessary collaboration.

B. Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

19. The Special Rapporteur visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 15 to 21 April 2007 at the invitation of the Government. He and his assistant visited Kinshasa, Bukavu in Sud-Kivu, Goma in Nord-Kivu and Bunia in Ituri, where he met Government representatives, judges and prosecutors from both civilian and military courts, lawyers, members of NGOs, various representatives of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the principal donors to the justice sector. The Special Rapporteur would like to thank the Government for having allowed him to study at first hand the state of the judicial system in order to understand some of its weaknesses, which made it possible for him to make recommendations designed to facilitate its rehabilitation.

20. Having emerged from a decade of conflict and a three-year transition period, the country has, since 2006, had a democratically elected Government and an appropriate institutional framework. It must now establish an independent and effective judiciary, so that it can play its role as a pillar of democracy and guarantor of the rule of law by putting an end to the near universal impunity that currently prevails in the country.

21. The Special Rapporteur's final report, containing his conclusions and recommendations on his visit, will be presented to the Human Rights Council in a few months. The Special Rapporteur has, however, already submitted a preliminary note to the fifth session of the Council (A/HRC/4/25/Add.3). In that document, he

notes that the judicial system is in an alarming state, especially in view of the following:

(a) There are far too few judicial personnel and courts in the country. Judges do not have the logistical and physical facilities they need to perform their duties in a dignified and professional manner. The lack of adequate remuneration encourages a lack of independence and almost systematic corruption among judges and court officials;

(b) Interference by the executive authorities and the army remains very common. The lack of an independent higher council of the judiciary responsible for managing judges' careers makes judges more vulnerable to interference;

(c) Gaining access to justice is very difficult for the majority of the population because of corruption, a lack of financial resources, the geographical remoteness of the courts and transport problems and a lack of awareness of appeal mechanisms;

(d) In most cases, the courts' decisions are not enforced. The number of prison escapes is also high, owing in part to the badly dilapidated state of the prisons. This undermines the work of the judicial system and allows crime to go unpunished;

(e) Most human rights violations are committed by the armed forces and the police and fall within the jurisdiction of the military tribunals. International standards require that cases of human rights violations by members of the armed forces, like trials of civilians, should be heard by civilian, not military courts. The country must comply with these standards. This is all the more important because the lack of independence particularly affects the military judicial system, which remains dependent on the military hierarchy;

(f) Preventive detention is the rule rather than the exception. It is used in connection with far too many offences, and often the sole aim is to extract money in return for the release of the detainee. Suspects can often be held in preventive detention for months or even years without being found guilty by a court of law.

22. In view of those observations, the Special Rapporteur has made the following preliminary recommendations:

(a) The allocation of a considerably higher percentage of the national budget to the judicial system. The current allocation is less than 0.5 per cent of the budget, whereas the budget of the judicial system usually accounts for between 2 and 6 per cent of national budgets. These resources should, inter alia, make it possible to improve judges' pay, recruit new judges, give them the premises and operational capacity they need to perform their duties, and establish new courts, especially magistrates' courts;

(b) The development and implementation by the Justice Ministry, in close cooperation with donors, of a plan for rebuilding the judicial system. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur supports the work of the Joint Committee to Monitor the Justice Framework Programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Convinced that this Committee's work is critical to strengthening the country's judicial system, but having noted delays in the drafting of the plan, he encourages Committee members to press on with their work so that the plan can be adopted as soon as possible;

(c) Recovery by the country's authorities of control over its natural resources, in order to allow the country to obtain the resources it needs to strengthen its institutions, in particular the judicial system, and to ensure that the population benefits from the country's considerable wealth;

(d) To give effect to the constitutional framework and ensure that judicial independence does not remain a dead letter, a number of laws must be adopted as a matter of urgency: (1) A law on the organization of the Higher Council of the Judiciary, a key body that will be responsible for appointing, promoting and disciplining judges and for drawing up the judicial system's budget; (2) A law providing for the application of the Rome Statute, which will transfer jurisdiction over international crimes from military tribunals to the civilian judicial system; (3) Laws establishing the Court of Cassation, the Constitutional Court and the *Conseil d'Etat*;

(e) The training of judges and auxiliary staff should be considerably strengthened. A college for the judiciary and a college for the professional training of judicial auxiliary staff should be established as soon as possible;

(f) In order to guarantee the right to a defence, a right recognized in the Constitution, the State should establish a system for paying duty lawyers, for example through bar associations, to ensure that poor people can have a high quality defence;

(g) The civilian justice system should be strengthened: it should have sole jurisdiction to judge civilians and cases of human rights violations committed by the armed forces or the police. The jurisdiction of the military tribunals should be gradually limited to offences of a purely military nature;

(h) The use of preventive detention must be strictly limited. A maximum period of preventive detention should be established by law, especially for offences for which the prison sentence is under five years;

(i) A system for monitoring the enforcement of judgements should be established, as should a mechanism to ensure that the legal costs incurred by poor people are met by the State;

(j) The Congolese judiciary and the international community should cooperate in prosecuting grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed during the war, drawing on the experience of judicial cooperation in the area of transitional justice that has produced good results in other countries. The establishment of joint benches might be an appropriate solution.

23. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the Government's recognition that the Congolese judicial system — the backbone of the rule of law and the country's development — is in a critical state and urgently needs to be strengthened. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur invites the new Government to make the reconstruction and strengthening of the judicial system a priority in its programme for the democratic consolidation of the country, and he encourages the Government to pursue its efforts to that end.

IV. Conditions influencing the administration of justice and the independence of judges, prosecutors and lawyers

24. In order to give an overview of the conditions and circumstances that influence, in particular, the independence of the judiciary, whether in organizational or operational terms, the Special Rapporteur conducted an assessment of the many activities he carried out between 1994 and 2006. As a result, he was able to identify the circumstances that most frequently influence the functioning of the judiciary and its independence. Those circumstances fall into three categories: (a) circumstances affecting the independence of judges, prosecutors, lawyers or court officials; (b) standards and practices affecting the rule of law and jeopardizing the smooth functioning of the judicial system and the right to a fair trial; and (c) various specific challenges to the judiciary and its independence. In that connection, the special Rapporteur's previous report to the Human Rights Council recommended that the Council should increase still further its efforts to defend the work being accomplished by different actors involved in the administration of justice and recommend that States adopt specific measures intended to guarantee the safety and protection of judicial employees.

A. Circumstances affecting the independence of judges, prosecutors, lawyers or court officials

25. Throughout the world, those who work in the judicial system are at risk or face situations that result in violations of their human rights. As the Special Rapporteur has noted in this (A/HRC/4/25/Add.1) and previous years' reports on communications issued to countries, those situations consist mainly of harassment, intimidation, vilification and threats, but may include enforced disappearances, assassinations or summary executions of judges, prosecutors or lawyers simply because they are doing their jobs. Cases recorded in 2006 show how regularly such circumstances arise: about 55 per cent of communications, relating to some 148 cases in 54 countries, dealt with violations of the human rights of judges, lawyers, prosecutors and court officials. Threats, intimidation and acts of aggression directed against lawyers accounted for 17 per cent of communications issued by the Special Rapporteur; the corresponding figure for judges and prosecutors was 4 per cent. Arbitrary detention and judicial harassment accounted for 26 per cent of communications concerning lawyers and 4 per cent of those concerning judges and prosecutors. Assassinations of lawyers, judges and prosecutors accounted for 4 per cent of the total number of communications. In some countries, the level of violence was especially high. For example, in one Latin American country, the Office of the Special Rapporteur recorded the assassination of 16 employees of the judicial system, 63 cases of threats, 2 abductions and 2 cases of exile between January 2005 and August 2006. In one Asian country, no fewer than 15 lawyers and 10 judges were assassinated with impunity between 2001 and mid-2006. The authorities do not always provide sufficient protection or a clear condemnation of these criminal activities, which often go unpunished.

B. Standards and practices affecting the rule of law and jeopardizing the smooth functioning of the judicial system

26. Institutional considerations can affect the functioning of the judiciary and its independence and can even jeopardize the rule of law. Corruption of the judiciary is one of the most difficult threats to eradicate. While high levels of corruption are often attributed to the poor remuneration of judges and lawyers and the judiciary's lack of financial independence, there are many contributing factors, and judges' ideological or political allegiances are particularly significant. Delays in the administration of justice are also as common as they are disturbing. Violations of the right to judgement without undue delay typically stem from the unnecessary complexity of judicial procedures combined with an excessive volume of cases reaching the highest courts.

27. The Special Rapporteur also noted with some alarm that reforms of the judiciary, instead of reinforcing judicial independence, often undermine it. In this regard, serious interference by the executive branch in the composition and functioning of the Supreme Court, as well as non-permanent judicial appointments and appointments within the direct gift of the Head of State, are recurrent themes in the complaints received. While the establishment of specialized jurisdictions is generally well regarded, such jurisdictions are frequently prey to particular political interests and do not always meet the requirements of due process. In some cases, the prosecutor's office and the executive are so closely identified that the role of lawyers and judges in the trial is reduced to a mere formality.

28. Unequal access to justice is another factor that affects many parts of society, especially the most vulnerable groups. These same groups also lose out on account of a failure to enforce court decisions, particularly where economic, social and cultural rights are at issue, which illustrates the relationship between key economic and social factors and the administration of justice. This issue will be discussed below and will be the subject of the Special Rapporteur's next report to the Council.

29. With regard to lawyers, there have been recurrent instances of non-existent, inadequate or disregarded safeguards on the freedom to practise their profession, as well as difficulties obtaining access to clients or documentation and inequality of arms throughout the case.

C. Specific challenges

30. Some of the most serious problems recorded, and those in respect of which the Special Rapporteur has received the most complaints, relate to the trial of civilians before military courts and the trial of members of the armed forces accused of serious human rights violations by their peers, and the establishment of special courts, which are generally associated with a serious violation of the principles of natural law. The list also includes a growing number of complaints received following the introduction of particular counter-terrorism, national security or asylum legislation, which has caused particular consternation because it restricts rights by precluding or limiting recourse to the justice system and according broad powers to the executive.

31. Other complaints referred to the adoption of amnesty laws, which prevented those who had authorized or perpetrated grave and systematic human rights violations from being brought to justice. The denial of habeas corpus or *amparo* in

cases of enforced disappearance is particularly significant. The death penalty has also been especially controversial. If a death sentence is handed down following a trial which did not comply with the relevant standards, there have been violations of both the right to a fair trial and the right not to be deprived of one's life arbitrarily.

32. Likewise, a significant number of complaints reflect the difficulties many States have in reconciling modern, positive law and religious, traditional and/or tribal law.

V. Protection of rights during states of emergency

33. All legal systems throughout the world provide for the adoption of emergency measures to deal with crisis situations. At present, a state of emergency may be declared only to maintain constitutional order and restore normality when organized community life is threatened. But whatever the declared intention and purpose, in practice states of emergency continue to give rise to serious human rights violations and often seriously constrain the administration of justice. One of the main challenges facing international human rights law has been to establish limits for such violations by specifying the legal scope of a state of emergency. The basic text is article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which lays down the formal and material requirements for implementing a state of emergency. This article has been the subject of extensive comments by the Human Rights Committee, particularly in its general comment No. 29.

34. While general comment No. 29 and the precedents established by the treaty and non-treaty bodies have enabled progress to be made in the legal regulation of states of emergency, there are still many cases in which improper conduct by States constitutes a violation of human rights, in particular as far as the right to a fair trial and the independence of the judiciary are concerned. With regard to the right to a fair trial, the principal violations are of the right of habeas corpus, the right to legal assistance of one's own choosing, the right to appeal before an independent court, the right to a public trial and the right to present one's own witnesses. Other frequent violations are the indiscriminate use of preventive detention, indefinite detention without charges or a trial, protracted incommunicado detention, obtaining confessions using torture, convictions based on such confessions and the violation of the principle of *non bis in idem*.

35. With regard to the independence of the judiciary, measures are adopted to prevent the judiciary from acting as a counterweight to the executive. Such measures include, for example: replacing ordinary courts by military courts or commissions; harassing judges, prosecutors and lawyers; removing judges or transferring them to places where they are unable to interfere with the executive; subordinating the judiciary to the executive; and discrediting or disregarding judicial decisions. New threats have justified new ways of suspending human rights, in breach of the obligations undertaken by States and in disregard of the principles governing states of emergency, such as those of proclamation, notification, exceptional threat, proportionality or state of emergency.[1] Use is frequently made of exceptional measures under ordinary circumstances. Restrictions are imposed — generally by means of laws on national security, anti-terrorism and immigration —

[1] See document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/19 and Add.1

that go far beyond the limitations and derogations allowed under ordinary circumstances.

36. Bearing in mind that states of emergency continue to give rise to serious human rights violations, the Special Rapporteur recommended to the Human Rights Council at its June 2007 session that an instrument should be drafted whose purpose was to incorporate in a single text — declaratory in nature — all norms and principles regulating the protection of human rights during states of emergency. To that end, the Special Rapporteur recommended to the Council that OHCHR should organize a seminar of experts to discuss the drafting of guidelines or other provisions to ensure the observance of human rights during states of emergency and to submit to the Council a proposal based on the results of its work.

37. The Special Rapporteur is gratified to note that the Council was favourable to this proposal. Many delegations recognized the importance of the issue, and some observed that in the past states of emergency had given rise to serious violations of human rights in their own countries. This demonstrates the importance of the seminar of experts, which will be organized by OHCHR and held towards the end of 2007, and the significance of its conclusions and proposals for the Council.

VI. Access to justice

38. The Special Rapporteur has addressed on many occasions, in particular in his reports on the countries he has visited, the lack of access to justice and its serious consequences for the full enjoyment of human rights. Appropriate and egalitarian access to justice is a basic condition for the effective implementation of human rights and is a serious problem in many countries. In its broadest sense, this concept involves not only access to the judicial system but also access to other procedures and institutions that assist individuals to claim their rights and deal with State bodies, including national human rights commissions, ombudsmen or mediation institutions.

39. Given the importance and scope of the issue of access to justice, the Special Rapporteur intends to address it extensively in his next general report to the Human Rights Council. In the present report to the General Assembly, he will briefly outline the various factors and circumstances impeding appropriate and egalitarian access to justice.

A. Lack of capacity and efficiency in the judiciary and other related institutions

40. The judicial systems of many countries are affected by a blatant lack of resources, which prevents them from discharging their functions efficiently. This is often reflected in: an inadequate number of courts to deal with the large number of cases awaiting trial, together with the fact that in many instances there are no mediation bodies to take some of the workload; and a lack of technical resources and suitably trained and remunerated personnel. Many countries do not have the means to guarantee the protection of the victims and witnesses of human rights violations, which makes it difficult for victims to gain access to justice. The Special Rapporteur was also concerned to find that in a number of countries justice systems were so centralized geographically that only the capital and large cities had courts, while huge rural areas remained outside the system. In this context, the relationship

between access to ordinary justice and access to indigenous or traditional justice systems is of particular interest to the Special Rapporteur. In addition, corruption in the judicial system has been reported as one of the factors impeding access to justice in many cases.

B. Absence of the necessary will to allow and facilitate access to justice

41. In other instances, the fault lies, not with a lack of institutional capacity, but with an absence of will on the part of Government authorities to provide appropriate and egalitarian access to justice, especially, as mentioned below, by the more vulnerable social groups. The excessive pressure of the executive on the judiciary means that access to justice is severely limited on many occasions. There are numerous cases in which a person's access to a defence counsel or judge is barred, and this is particularly frequent in situations of detention. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, among others, have reported numerous instances of this situation. In recent years the Special Rapporteur has noted with concern that military courts have extended their jurisdiction, which has proved an obstacle for many victims of human rights violations in their quest for justice; also, laws on amnesty present in many cases an insurmountable barrier to those seeking access to justice.

C. Dearth of economic resources and lack of information for individuals

42. The cost of a judicial process is frequently more than an individual can afford. This circumstance is of special concern in developing countries, which often lack the capacity to guarantee that an official defence counsel will be provided free of charge or to defray the legal costs for persons who cannot afford to pay themselves. Another major obstacle to effective access to justice is a lack of information and awareness on the part of individuals regarding entitlement to rights and guarantees and the procedures to follow.

D. Problems of access by vulnerable groups

43. Non-discrimination is a prerequisite when it comes to appropriate and egalitarian access to justice. Access must be guaranteed to all individuals, without any distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth or any other social condition. Yet, in practice, there are many groups which, because of specific vulnerabilities, have limited access to justice. This fact has been reported on numerous occasions by United Nations special rapporteurs, working groups and committees dealing with: persons in a situation of poverty; women and children; persons with a disability; asylum-seekers; immigrants; indigenous people; and groups discriminated against on the basis of their race or some other circumstance.

E. Special difficulties in an armed-conflict or a post-conflict situation

44. Limits to access to justice are greatest during armed-conflict and post-conflict situations. In many instances, an almost total paralysis of the judicial system occurs during conflicts, and individuals have no possibility of accessing justice. Often the judicial systems of countries in post-conflict situations have to contend with a shortage of personnel — generally speaking, because of illness, death or migration — and the total or partial destruction of municipal facilities. In periods of conflict and transition, justice has to deal not only with normal business but also with the numerous violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that tend to occur during a conflict. Victims, who have every right to expect truth, justice and reparation, turn to the judicial system; but in such contexts the courts are usually overwhelmed and lack the capacity to administer justice.

45. Given the complexity and magnitude of the problem of access to justice and its importance to the observance and enjoyment of all human rights, the Special Rapporteur intends to address this issue extensively in his next general report to the Human Rights Council. He wishes to prepare a full analysis and to make recommendations that will help to improve access to justice.

VII. International justice

A. International Criminal Court

46. As a judicial institution that complements national courts and does not exclude them, the International Criminal Court has the advantage of being able to undertake investigations and prosecute and try those chiefly responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide where the national authorities are incapable or unwilling to do so.

47. In recent years the Court has taken some major steps towards consolidating its establishment, including the entry into force of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, the setting up in The Hague of the secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the Court, and the signature of an agreement determining the legal basis of the cooperation between the Court and the United Nations.

48. The ratifications in September 2006 of the Rome Statute to the Court by the Governments of Chad and Montenegro are extremely encouraging. However, the signing of bilateral agreements on immunity between the United States and the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the Court in order to remove United States citizens from the jurisdiction of the Court is of concern to the Special Rapporteur.

49. With regard to his continued monitoring of developments at the Court, the Special Rapporteur welcomes the progress made in each of the investigations being carried out, which he deals with below.

1. Democratic Republic of the Congo

50. On 17 March 2006, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who is the leader and founder of the Union des patriotes congolais, was arrested and surrendered to the International Criminal Court because of the alleged commission of the following war crimes: (a) enlisting children under the age of 15;

(b) conscripting children under the age of 15; and (c) using children under the age of 15 to participate actively in hostilities.

51. On 29 January 2007, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the Court had sufficient evidence to confirm the charges presented by the Prosecutor and to proceed to trial. Accordingly, Mr. Lubanga's case is the first to come before the judges of the Court.

52. The Special Rapporteur singles out for mention the cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Security Council of the United Nations and the States Parties to the Rome Statute, without which the surrender of Mr. Lubanga and his appearance before the Court would not have been possible. He also regards as positive the decisions adopted by Chamber I which enabled the four victims to participate in the trial of Mr. Lubanga.

2. Darfur, Sudan

53. As emphasized by the Special Rapporteur in his previous reports, in March 2005 the Security Council referred the case of Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, in conformity with article 13, paragraph (b), of the Statute. In June 2005, the Prosecutor formally initiated investigations into the crimes committed within the framework of the armed conflict between the Sudanese security forces and the Janjaweed militia against organized rebel groups, including the Sudanese Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement.

54. As a result of this investigation, the Prosecutor considered that there were sufficient grounds for believing that Ahmad Muhammad Harun, formerly Minister of the Interior and currently Minister of Humanitarian Affairs of the Sudan, and Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (Ali Kushayb), leader of the Janjaweed militia, were criminally responsible for the commission of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur in 2003 and 2004 and therefore requested Pre-Trial Chamber I to issue the necessary summonses.

55. In the light of the evidence referred by the Prosecutor, the Chamber concluded that there were sufficient grounds for considering that Ahmad Harun, by virtue of his position, not only was aware of the crimes committed against the civilian population and the methods used by the Janjaweed militia but also had probably encouraged the commission of such acts. It also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to consider that Ali Kushayb had recruited, established and armed the Janjaweed militia, deliberately contributing to the commission of crimes against the civilian population, and that he had participated personally in some of the attacks. The evidence collected also indicated that the two had probably acted together — and with others also involved — as part of a systematic and organized plan whose aim was to attack the civilian population in Darfur. Believing that the two men would not appear voluntarily before the Court, the Chamber decided to issue two arrest warrants containing charges for, inter alia, persecution, murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, forcible transfer, pillaging, destruction of property, inhumane acts and torture.

56. The Special Rapporteur expresses his concern about the lack of cooperation from the Government of the Sudan and the lack of a relationship agreement between the Court and the African Union, a circumstance which seriously hampers the investigations and puts at risk the appearance of the suspects before the judges of the Court.

3. Uganda

57. On 29 July 2004, at the request of the Government of Uganda, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court determined that there was reasonable basis to open an investigation into the crimes allegedly committed in northern Uganda by the leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Following that investigation, and having confirmed the existence of sufficient evidence, on 8 July 2005 Pre-Trial Chamber II issued five warrants of arrest for five LRA leaders charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes.

58. The Special Rapporteur expresses concern that, more than two years after the issuance of the warrants of arrest, none of the five suspects have been detained or surrendered to the Court.

59. On 29 June 2007, the Government of Uganda and LRA signed the third phase of a peace agreement, pursuant to which they agreed to establish a commission to investigate the potential war crimes allegedly committed by both sides and to adopt of a procedure, in keeping with tribal customs, to deal with rebels accused of war crimes. However, as a prerequisite for the signature of a comprehensive peace agreement, the senior leaders of LRA have called on the Government of Uganda to ask the International Criminal Court to withdraw the arrest warrants it had issued. In that connection, the Prosecutor of the Court noted that, while no formal request to that effect had been made, "peace and justice should continue to be viewed as mutually reinforcing objectives".[2] The Special Rapporteur draws the attention of the Government of Uganda and LRA to the need to reach an agreement that precludes any type of amnesty for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and grave violations of human rights, thereby striking a balance between the need to see justice done and the need to achieve lasting peace in the region.

4. Central African Republic

60. On 22 May 2007, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced his decision to open an investigation in the Central African Republic, at the request of the country's Government, into alleged crimes committed during the most violent period of the armed conflict between the Government and the rebel forces in 2002 and 2003. The Court of Cassation — the country's court of highest instance — subsequently confirmed that the national justice system was unable to carry out the proceedings necessary to investigate and prosecute the alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, thereby enabling the International Criminal Court to hear the case in accordance with the principle of complementarity. This is the first time that the Court has opened an investigation in which allegations of sexual crimes — committed specifically against women — outnumber alleged killings.

B. Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal

61. The Special Rapporteur has followed from the outset the establishment and activities of the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal and, in a number of reports and press releases, has pointed to the serious irregularities characterizing its establishment and functioning. With regard to its establishment, although the Statute

[2] See document entitled "Submission of information on the status of the execution of the warrants of arrest in the situation in Uganda", ICC-02/04-01/05-166-Corr.2, dated 6 October 2006.

adopted by the Coalition Provisional Authority was subsequently endorsed by the Government Council and thereafter by the elected Iraqi authorities, this does not resolve the original problem identified by the Special Rapporteur in his previous reports. Moreover, in many respects the Tribunal's Statute does not comply with international human rights standards: for example, it provides for limited personal jurisdiction, which allows the Tribunal to judge only Iraqis, and limited jurisdiction *ratione temporis*, since the Tribunal cannot judge crimes committed by foreign forces prior to the 1990 Gulf war or war crimes committed since 1 May 2003, the date on which Iraq was occupied. In addition, the Statute does not rule out confessions obtained as a result of torture or arbitrary detention, includes as offences acts which were defined as such only after their commission by Saddam Hussein's regime, and does not protect the right not to testify against oneself.

62. The independence of judges and lawyers is not guaranteed, as evidenced by the trial relating to the Dujail massacre, in respect of which Saddam Hussein and other accused individuals were sentenced to death and executed. One judge, several proposed judges, three defence lawyers and a court employee were assassinated during this trial. Another judge resigned as President of the Tribunal after having been subjected to pressure on account of his former links with the Ba'ath regime. Above and beyond the current widespread condemnation of the death penalty, the Human Rights Committee has repeatedly stated that, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the death penalty can be applied only when all the guarantees of due process, set out in article 14 of the Covenant, are respected. In the trial held in the wake of the Dujail massacre, those guarantees were violated, and thus there were also violations of the right to a fair trial and the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of one's life.

63. Similar concerns regarding serious violations of international human rights standards were also expressed by the High Commissioner,[3] the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention,[4] the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions[5] and various international human rights NGOs.

Death penalty and the right to the truth

64. The Special Rapporteur notes with serious concern that individuals sentenced to death are still being executed in Iraq, despite his repeated requests and those of other United Nations bodies that such executions should be discontinued. Furthermore, in the case of Iraq the implementation of the death penalty has engendered a serious violation of the right to the truth of the victims of the crimes committed by Saddam Hussein's regime.

65. The Special Rapporteur is also extremely concerned about the circumstances surrounding the execution of Awraz Abdel Aziz Mahmoud Sa'eed on 3 July, which went ahead in spite the fact that he had specifically requested its cancellation on account of the fact that Awraz Abdel Aziz Mahmoud Sa'eed had confessed to having participated in the attack of August 2003 against the United Nations office in Baghdad. In the specific case of Awraz Abdel Aziz Mahmoud Sa'eed, the execution

[3] *Amicus curiae* dated 8 February 2007 and press releases dated 5 November 2006 and 3 and 15 January 2007.

[4] Opinion No. 31/2006 dated 1 September 2006 and press releases dated 28 November 2006 and 24 January 2007.

[5] A/HRC/4/20/Add.1 and press releases dated 16 November 2005, 3 January 2007 and 13 February 2007.

also violated the right to the truth of the victims of the attack against the United Nations office in Baghdad and frustrated attempts to obtain significant evidence relating to the tragic attack that cost 22 people their lives, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

C. Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia

66. In his 2006 report to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur noted with satisfaction that the Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia had been established and, with the swearing-in of the national and international judges on 3 July 2006, had begun their work. At the present time, he wishes to draw attention to the unanimous adoption, on 12 June 2007, of the Internal Rules by the plenary session of national and international judges, thereby concluding a two-week session in Phnom Penh. In a joint statement, the national and international judges emphasized their commitment to completing the trials in a timely manner while ensuring respect for the highest standards of justice, impartiality and transparency.[6]

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

67. **The Special Rapporteur invites the General Assembly to increase its efforts to defend the work being accomplished by different actors involved in the administration of justice and to consider problems affecting the judicial system and its independence, with a view to recommending that States should adopt specific measures intended to guarantee to judicial employees the safety and protection they require to perform their duties properly.**

68. **Bearing in mind that the administration of justice is one of the pillars of the rule of law and the democratic system, the defence of justice must be accorded priority when analysing the institutional aspects encompassed by the activities of the United Nations as a whole. In this context, the Organization should, in its support and technical cooperation activities, promote the theme of justice, especially with respect to countries which are in transition or are recovering from an armed conflict which has had a serious impact on nation-building.**

69. **States should immediately bring their domestic legislation and practices into line with international principles, judicial practice and standards governing the protection of human rights during states of emergency. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur is convinced that the expert seminar to be held by OHCHR before the end of 2007 will provide very useful input to the process by drafting a declaration containing the basic principles designed to ensure the observance of human rights during states of emergency.**

70. **Bearing in mind that access to justice is one of the prerequisites for the effective enjoyment of the most basic human rights, and that the Special Rapporteur has found that this is one of the most common problems in many**

[6] The Special Rapporteur also welcomes the reduction from $2,000 to $500 of the registration fee for foreign lawyers levied by the Cambodian Bar Council, since the legitimate objections to the fee expressed by international lawyers served to delay the adoption of the Internal Rules.

countries, he intends to address the issue in an extensive manner in his next general report to the Human Rights Council.

71. **The Special Rapporteur urges the international community to support the work of the International Criminal Court by ratifying its Statute and signing cooperation agreements in order to ensure that the perpetrators of perverse crimes, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide, are brought to justice and no longer go unpunished. In this connection, he encourages, in particular, the African Union to sign a relationship agreement with the Court.**

72. **With regard to the Iraqi Supreme Criminal Tribunal, the Special Rapporteur reiterates his previous recommendations, in particular that trials be conducted in accordance with international standards or that an international criminal tribunal be constituted with the cooperation of the United Nations.**

73. **With regard to the Extraordinary Chambers in Cambodia, the Special Rapporteur welcomes the favourable resolution of the issues surrounding the fees of international lawyers and the adoption of the Internal Rules. He now urges the Office of the Prosecutor to open its investigations in the forthcoming weeks so that the first hearings can begin in the first quarter of 2008, as envisaged by the national and international judges in their joint declaration of 12 June 2007.**

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Sustainable development

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

New and renewable sources of energy have begun to enter the mainstream of national and international energy policy formulation and now constitute an integral element of the global vision for sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The further development and increased use of advanced and cleaner energy technologies, including new and renewable sources of energy, offer options with multiple benefits for sustainable development. Global interest in new and renewable energy technologies and in their investment has been growing rapidly since the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which calls for substantially increasing, with a sense of urgency, the global share of energy obtained from renewable sources. However, in spite of recent investments, the share of energy derived from new and renewable sources still remains considerably below its economic potential. Policy options for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy were extensively reviewed by the Commission on Sustainable Development during its second implementation cycle. The third implementation cycle of the Commission will focus on the thematic cluster of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. The sixteenth and seventeenth sessions may thus provide an opportunity to address, among other issues, Africa's continuing widespread dependence on the unsustainable use of traditional biomass to meet its growing basic energy needs.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/199, reaffirmed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[1] as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development, and called for its full implementation, including the implementation of recommendations concerning energy for sustainable development. The Assembly encouraged the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of development and poverty eradication.

2. In recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] the General Assembly also welcomed initiatives aimed at improving access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[3] The Assembly encouraged national and regional initiatives on renewable energy to promote access to energy and emphasized the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, requiring increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts. The Assembly also stressed that the wider use of available renewable sources of energy requires technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation.

3. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of its resolution 60/199. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. Multiple benefits of using new and renewable sources of energy

4. Since the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, international interest in new and renewable sources of energy has grown significantly, motivated by different yet interrelated concerns of significant importance. The increased use of new and renewable sources of energy offers important options for the provision of energy for sustainable development, with multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.

5. Meeting the energy needs of developing countries in a sustainable manner is an urgent challenge. The persistent lack of access to energy is seriously impeding socio-economic development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and in countries of

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

South Asia, but also in many other developing countries, including many of the small island developing States. In the developing countries, some 1.6 billion people still lack access to electricity and, as shown in table 1, an estimated 2.5 billion people continue to rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, mainly in rural areas.

Table 1
Reliance on biomass resources as primary fuel for cooking in developing countries, 2004

	Rural		*Urban*		*Total population*	
	(Percentage)	*(Millions)*	*(Percentage)*	*(Millions)*	*(Percentage)*	*(Millions)*
Africa	75	417	44	162	44	579
Sub-Saharan	93	413	58	162	58	575
Asia	70	1 656	17	267	17	1 865
China	55	428	10	52	10	480
India	87	663	25	77	25	740
Latin America	60	75	7	33	7	83
Brazil	53	16	5	8	5	23
Total	**83**	**2 147**	**52**	**461**	**23**	**2 528**

Source: Based on data compiled by the International Energy Agency for *World Energy Outlook 2006* (Paris, 2006) arranged according to the regions of the United Nations, and population data based on United Nations, "World Population Prospects, 2006: highlights" (ESA/P/WP.202).

6. National and local programmes aimed at expanding traditional biomass energy supply (for example, community wood lots) or aimed at improving the efficiency of traditional biomass use (for example, more fuel-efficient cook stoves) will continue to play an important role in sustainable development until affordable and efficient modern stoves and fuels become more widely available to meet the cooking and heating needs of the urban and rural poor.

7. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and of more equitable socio-economic development will depend on providing the poor with increased access to modern energy services to enable them to meet their basic needs and for income-generation. Energy policymakers and planners in the developing countries are taking a growing interest in using renewable energy systems in the process of rural electrification wherever the necessary technical and financial support is available.

8. Another major concern that can be addressed by increasing the use of energy from new and renewable sources is climate change. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded in its recent Fourth Assessment Report that global temperatures were rising and that the primary cause was human activity. In addition, with temperatures rising, projections indicate the possibility of major changes in ecosystem structure and function, with predominantly negative consequences for biodiversity and ecosystems, for example, freshwater and food supply. Human-induced carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions originate mainly from the combustion of fossil fuels. Therefore, in

addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy for electricity generation offers important options for reducing anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in both developed and developing countries.

9. The multiple benefits of new and renewable sources of energy have received increasing attention at recent global conferences and summits. At the 2005 World Summit, participating world leaders agreed to promote the development and greater use of new and renewable energy sources. The Group of Eight, at its 2005 Summit, adopted the Gleneagles Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development and called for accelerated technology development and the increased use of energy-efficient and climate-friendly technologies. In 2006, leaders attending the Group of Eight Summit, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, adopted a plan of action in which they agreed to, among other measures promote the wider use of renewable and alternative energy sources and facilitate investments in that field. Building on those decisions, leaders participating in the Group of Eight and the Group of Eight Plus Five Summit, held in Germany in 2007, agreed to move forward within the United Nations framework and to act to address climate change.

10. Switching to new and renewable sources of energy can also have positive environmental and public-health impacts through the reduction of air pollution. Local, regional and transboundary air pollution from sulphur and nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and suspended particulate matter emanating from fossil-fuel use can have negative impacts on human health, cause acid precipitation and contribute to depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.

11. Global primary energy supply and consumption are widely expected to increase from 10,579 million tons of oil equivalent in 2003 to 12,200 in 2010, and to 16,500 in 2030. Developing countries in particular face rising energy demand as a result of expanding per capita economic activity and increasing populations. Given the projected increase in their energy demand, all energy sources need to be tapped. At the same time, the carbon intensity of energy production and consumption will need to be reduced significantly, at least in the intermediate and longer term, if climate change is to be addressed effectively. Together with greater energy efficiency, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, new and renewable sources of energy will have to make a greater contribution to the future energy supply if the rising global energy demand is to be met in ways that contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

III. New and renewable sources of energy and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

12. The promotion of new and renewable sources of energy figured prominently in the deliberations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The actions called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation include a major focus on energy for poverty eradication, for changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and for the sustainable development of regions, including Africa and the small island developing States.

13. In addressing the contribution that renewable energy can make to poverty eradication, the Plan calls for (a) increased use of energy from renewable sources as one means of improving access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources; (b) improved access to modern biomass technologies and fuelwood sources and supplies, and commercialized biomass operations in rural areas and where such practices are sustainable; and (c) improved patterns of use through better management of resources, more efficient use of fuelwood and new and improved products and technologies aimed at promoting sustainable use of biomass and, as appropriate, other renewable sources of energy.

14. With regard to the need to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, the Plan calls for substantially increasing, with a sense of urgency, the global share of energy obtained from renewable sources, hydro included, with the objective of increasing its contribution to the total energy supply, and for regularly evaluating available data to review progress to that end.

15. The Plan also calls for support for initiatives to increase the use of renewable energy, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, and to support the efforts of African nations to achieve the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/57304, annex), one of which is to secure access to energy for at least 35 per cent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas.

16. The *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*,[4] held in Port Louis from 10 to 14 January 2005, points out that energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for those nations, as many remote and rural small island communities have little or no access to modern and affordable energy services. The report also noted that many small island developing States are particularly suited to the use of renewable sources of energy because of their geographical location. Many such States are also likely to be among the countries most seriously affected by the impact of climate change.

IV. Review of new and renewable sources of energy under the second implementation cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development

17. In the scope of its second implementation cycle, the Commission on Sustainable Development conducted an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21,[5] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[6] decisions taken at the ninth session of the Commission and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the thematic cluster that includes the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, atmosphere/air pollution and climate change.

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[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[6] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

The second implementation cycle constituted a comprehensive and inclusive global consultative process that included regional implementation meetings in all five regions, followed by a global review session held in New York in May 2006 and a policy session, also held in New York, in May 2007. All major groups actively participated in the deliberations.

18. In their deliberations, delegations recognized the multiple benefits of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development and highlighted the need to urgently and substantially accelerate the process of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Many delegations stated that there was a need to further diversify the energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies. Recognizing the contribution that new and renewable sources of energy can make to sustainable development, the Chairman of the Commission identified in his summary the need to, inter alia, accelerate the transition from the inefficient utilization of biomass to cleaner energy sources, technologies and appliances for cooking and heating, in particular in developing countries. The Commission also reflected on the important contribution that bioenergy and in particular liquid biofuels can make to sustainable development.

19. Information provided by Member States and other stakeholders on action taken to increase the use of new and renewable sources of energy is included in the matrix for the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission, which can be accessed through the Commission's website (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/csd15.htm). The Commission's Partnership Fair and Learning Centre also provided forums for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned by all relevant stakeholders.

20. It was also noted, during the Commission's deliberations, that the utilization of new and renewable energy technologies can assist in addressing gender inequalities, in particular in rural and remote areas of developing countries, by reducing the time spent on the collection of traditional fuelwood and by reducing the health hazards posed by indoor air pollution.

V. Overview on recent trends, policies and technology development

A. Contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to total primary energy supply

21. Many countries, both industrialized and developing, have in recent years adopted policies aimed at the promotion of accelerated development and the increased use of new and renewable energy sources. Hence, the overall trend in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy is towards continued significant expansion, as shown for the various geographical regions in tables 2 and 3. A recent study on global trends in renewable energy and energy efficiency estimated global investments in 2006 at a record $100 billion.[7] Growth in the

[7] UNEP and New Energy Finance, Ltd. *Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment 2007* (Paris, 2007).

utilization of new and renewable sources of energy has been particularly rapid in Europe. Between 1990 and 2004, the utilization of new and renewable energy sources has also increased by more than 50 per cent in North America and more than doubled in Asia, in particular in Asian developing countries. In Africa, the use of renewable energy, in particular hydropower, has also increased, but many programmes have remained too small to have a significant impact on their national energy systems, owing largely to the continuing high cost of new and renewable energy technologies, for which all components need to be imported.

Table 2
World geothermal, solar, wind, and wood and waste electric power consumption by region, 1985-2004

(Billions of kilowatt hours)

	1985	*1990*	*1995*	*2000*	*2004*
Northern America	12.32	71.65	83.35	93.29	107.10
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.44	13.12	16.66	23.45	34.98
Western Europe	13.81	19.39	38.03	75.01	132.38
Central and Eastern Europe and States of the former USSR	0.51	0.31	2.37	3.83	4.72
Western Asia	—	—	0.001	0.003	0.01
Africa	0.37	0.39	0.43	0.90	2.01
Asia and the Pacific	20.05	26.69	36.62	53.03	51.21
Total	**55.50**	**131.54**	**177.47**	**249.49**	**332.41**

Source: United States Department of Energy, June 2007, arranged according to the regions of the United Nations (see www.eia.doe.gov).

Table 3
World hydroelectric power consumption by region, 1985-2004

(Billions of kilowatt hours)

	1985	*1990*	*1995*	*2000*	*2004*
Northern America	585.11	586.73	643.40	630.24	602.66
Latin America and the Caribbean	313.43	388.37	487.00	578.85	602.03
Western Europe	453.15	453.42	508.49	554.90	435.71
Central and Eastern Europe and States of the former USSR	228.63	251.72	268.14	258.04	295.35
Western Asia	3.22	6.52	8.33	10.58	14.08
Africa	46.50	54.82	58.87	73.96	87.43
Asia and the Pacific	323.53	410.12	486.29	545.21	664.04
Total	**1 953.57**	**2 151.72**	**2 461.29**	**2 651.76**	**2 701.30**

Source: United States Department of Energy, June 2007, arranged according to the regions of the United Nations (see www.eia.doe.gov).

22. Hydropower is by far the most important renewable source of energy for electric-power generation. While the share of hydropower-generated electricity consumed has remained relatively constant, with some decrease in industrialized countries where a number of dams have been decommissioned in response to ecological concerns, development of this resource has been comparatively strong in Africa and Asia, where the feasibility of several new large hydropower projects is currently under study.

23. Whereas the global energy supply and consumption from all sources grew on average by 1.8 per cent per year between 1990 and 2004, energy derived from new and renewable sources grew slightly faster, at an average rate of 1.9 per cent per year, during that same period. As shown in table 4, the amount of energy derived from certain new and renewable sources grew at a much faster rate than that derived from others. Worldwide, wind power generation grew on average by more than 24 per cent per year. Solar energy, renewable municipal solid waste, biogas and liquid biomass also proved to be significant growth areas for renewable energy use, as the technologies to exploit them continue to develop rapidly.

Table 4
Average annual growth rates of energy supplied from renewable sources, 1990-2004
(Percentage)

Energy source	
All primary energy sources	1.8
All renewable energy sources	1.9
Wind	24.4
Solar	6.1
Hydropower	1.9
Geothermal	2.2
Solid biomass	1.6
Renewable municipal solid waste, biogas and liquid biomass	8.1

Source: IEA, *Renewables Information: 2006 Edition* (Paris, 2006).

24. Emerging investment trends can take a considerable period of time to show their effect on global patterns of energy production and consumption. Hence, despite the marked overall increase in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy and in their share of the total energy mix, that share remains small. It is estimated that in 2004 all renewable forms of energy provided only 13 per cent of the global primary energy supply, with 10 per cent emanating from combustible renewables (mainly traditional biomass such as fuelwood and charcoal), 2.2 per cent from hydropower, 0.4 per cent from geothermal energy and 0.5 per cent from various other new and renewable sources, including renewable municipal solid waste, liquid biofuels, gas from biomass, and wind, solar and tidal energy.

Table 5
Fuel shares in total primary energy supply, 2001 and 2004
(Percentage)

Fuel	*2001*	*2004*
Oil	35.0	34.3
Coal	23.4	25.1
Natural gas	21.2	20.9
Nuclear	6.9	6.5
Non-renewable wastes	—	0.2
Solid biomass/charcoal	10.4	10.0
New and renewable sources of energy	3.04	3.05
Hydro	2.214	2.188
Geothermal	0.432	0.414
Renewable municipal solid waste	0.162	0.092
Liquid biomass	0.095	0.157
Gas from biomass	0.068	0.092
Wind	0.027	0.065
Solar and tidal energy	0.041	0.039

Source: IEA, *Renewables Information: 2003 Edition* (Paris, 2003); and *Renewables Information: 2006 Edition* (Paris, 2006).

B. Policy options for promoting new and renewable sources of energy

25. Governments use a variety of policy tools and measures to promote renewable energy use. Legal guarantees for access to the electricity grid are an important precondition for private-sector investments in electricity production using new and renewable sources of energy. Most countries that have undertaken recent electricity-sector and market reforms now provide conditional access to the grid for independent power producers, including small-scale renewable energy producers. Guaranteed feed-in tariffs and renewable energy quotas and portfolio standards are among the instruments most frequently used to attract investment in power generation from new and renewable sources of energy. In 2006, more than 40 countries, states and provinces enacted feed-in policies, including countries of the European Union, as well as Brazil and China, and a number of states of India, Indonesia, Israel, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey. In addition, more than 35 countries, states and provinces, including more than 20 states of the United States of America, had enacted renewable-energy portfolio standards. Public procurement and renewable energy tendering are also policy options used in a variety of countries to promote the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy. Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were among the first countries to introduce public tendering for the procurement of electricity from new and renewable sources of energy. Small and microscale power producers using new and renewable energies can also significantly benefit from net metering. In certain countries and in some 30 states of the United States, distribution service providers are placed under a legal obligation to ensure the availability of

interconnections enabling small-scale producers to sell their surplus electricity supply to the grid to offset their own consumption during other periods. Differential retail pricing of electricity from various sources is available in Australia, some provinces of Canada, some countries of the European Union, and some states of the United States. In liberalized electricity markets, electricity retailers seek to sell electricity from new and renewable energy sources as "green electricity" at a premium to environmentally conscious consumers. Many countries also use public-benefit funds to finance rural electrification, renewable energy, energy efficiency or public research projects. Public-benefit funds can be generated in various ways, including through small levies on electricity transmission or consumption. Incentives offered to consumers can also stimulate investment in new and renewable sources of energy. In Australia, some countries of the European Union and Japan, various incentive programmes offer cash rebates or tax credits to consumers who install their own renewable energy facilities, particularly solar home systems.

26. Institutional infrastructure and concessionary sources of financing are also important tools for the promotion of the use of new and renewable sources of energy. In many developing countries, private-sector investments in new and renewable energies are impeded by high commercial interest rates, which in some countries exceed 10 or 20 per cent per year. To address that constraint, several developing countries, including Brazil, China and India, have established dedicated renewable-energy development and financing agencies, which have been effective in the successful expansion of the use of new and renewable energy sources in those countries.

27. A growing number of countries, states and provinces also use medium- or long-term targets in their new and renewable energy promotion policies. The European Union, for example, has set a target for its member States whereby 10 per cent of its electricity would be derived from renewable sources by 2012 and 20 per cent by 2020. In several developing countries, energy planning and development authorities have also announced targets. In China, plans have been announced to increase the use of energy from new and renewable sources, including hydropower, to 16 per cent of total energy use by the year 2020. There, development planning includes separate targets for each type of technology, with plans to increase, by 2020, electricity production capacity from hydropower to 300 gigawatts, from wind energy to 30 gigawatts, from biomass to 30 gigawatts, from solar photovoltaics to 1.8 gigawatts, and from biofuels to 15 billion litres. In India, short-term targets include the full use of cogeneration in the sugar and other biomass-based industries by 2012.

28. In recent years, a growing number of municipalities, corporations and small businesses as well as individual consumers have been seeking to reduce the carbon intensity of their energy consumption. That can be achieved through energy efficiency and energy conservation measures or through the setting up of renewable energy systems. With growing climate-change concerns, interest in carbon offsets and carbon trading can also be expected to increase significantly, raising the prospect of greater mobilization of additional financial resources for new and renewable energy projects.

29. On World Environment Day 2007, a plan was announced at the United Nations Secretariat that would make United Nations offices and operations climate-neutral and environmentally sustainable, which could be achieved through the more

efficient use of energy as well as by switching to electricity derived from renewable sources of energy and by purchasing carbon credits to offset greenhouse-gas emissions arising from United Nations operations. The greater the number of consumers seeking to switch to climate-friendly or climate-neutral forms of energy use, the greater the demand for sustainable forms of energy, including from new and renewable sources.

C. Costs of power generation using new and renewable sources of energy

30. Economic and financial considerations are of great importance to both producers and consumers. For energy-importing countries, and in particular for energy-importing least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the increase in global oil prices since 2004 has further added to the challenge of ensuring affordable energy services and led to a growing interest in renewable-energy options. Increased demand for renewable-energy equipment has also enabled certain manufacturers to expand their production and reduce their costs, making those options more attractive for investors and affordable for consumers.

31. Perspectives for expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy may in part also depend on the respective opportunity costs. Average costs of electricity generation in conventional power stations can vary considerably among countries, depending on technology, efficiency and type and cost of fuel used. However, most conventional power stations that use fossil fuels produce baseload electricity at costs ranging from $0.02-0.06 kilowatt hour. Peak-load power-generation costs can be higher. Costs are particularly high for off-grid power generators using diesel fuel, which are frequently found in rural areas of developing countries. As shown in table 6, average costs of electric-power generation using new and renewable sources of energy are still higher than average power-generation costs using fossil-fuel-based energy technologies. Whereas large and small hydropower can produce electricity at competitive rates, mini- and micro-hydro may need some form of public support to provide electricity at affordable rates. Under the best possible conditions — optimized system design, site and resource availability — small hydropower, wind, geothermal and biomass may also produce electricity at costs ranging from $0.02-0.06 kilowatt hour, but in many cases costs may be higher and public policy or financial support may be indispensable, at least during the investment start-up phase.

32. The cost of both on-shore and off-shore wind power generation has declined in recent years, while there have been increases in wind-turbine capacities and economies of scale in wind-turbine manufacturing. Electricity generation from wind is now almost competitive with fossil-fuel-based power generation. However, continued supportive policies will be essential if wind power generation is to be further increased. Solar photovoltaics remains the most expensive source of electricity supply and is therefore used primarily in locations where no other, more economical sources of energy are available.

Table 6
Status and cost trends of renewable energy technologies

Technology	*Technical specifications*	*Average energy costs (United States cents)*
Power generation		
Large hydro	Plant size: 10-18,000 MW	3-4
Small hydro	Plant size: 1-10 MW	4-7
Onshore wind	Turbine size: 1-5 MW	4-6
Offshore wind	Turbine size: 1.5-5 MW	6-10
Biomass power	Plant size: 1-20 MW	5-12
Geothermal power	Plant size: 1-100 MW	4-7
Solar photovoltaics	Rooftop-mounted	20-40
(Rural) off-grid energy		
Mini-hydro	100-1,000 kW	5-10
Microhydro	1-100 kW	7-20
Pico-hydro	0.1-1 kW	20-40
Biomass gasifier	Size: 20-5,000 kW	8-12
Solar home system	System size: 20-100 W	40-60
Biofuels		
Ethanol	Feedstock: sugar cane or other lignocellulosic material	25-30 cents/litre
Biodiesel	Feedstock: oil crops or waste vegetable oils	40-80 cents/litre

Source: Adapted from Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, "Renewables 2005 global status report", (Washington, D.C., Worldwatch Institute, 2005), pp. 12-13.

D. Sustainable production and use of biofuels

33. Production and use of liquid biofuels has grown markedly during recent years. The value of biofuel projects currently under construction and planned for 2008 exceeded $3 billion in Brazil, $2.5 billion in the United States and $1.5 billion in France. The most dynamic areas of the biofuels industry include biomass power generation and ethanol and biodiesel production for transportation purposes. In recent years, biomass power generation and heat supply increased by more than 50 per cent in several countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, including Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain. Also, some developing countries such as Brazil, the Philippines and Thailand are increasing their share of electricity generation from modern biomass.

34. World ethanol production increased from 30 to 33 billion litres between 2003 and 2005. In the United States, there were 95 operating ethanol plants in 2005, with a total annual capacity of 16.4 billion litres. In 2006, 35 additional plants were under construction and 9 plants were being expanded, representing an additional annual capacity of 8 billion litres. Brazil had more than 300 operating plants and 80 newly licensed distillers in 2005. Total ethanol consumption in Brazil was 12.3 billion litres in 2005, representing 41 per cent of all non-diesel vehicle fuel in the country. Flex-fuel vehicles, which can operate on pure ethanol, gasoline, or any combination

of the two, attained a 70 per cent share of the non-diesel vehicle market in 2005. The Brazilian ethanol industry is expected to expand considerably under a new national plan that will result in a 40 per cent increase in sugar-cane production by 2009. In the European Union, five countries — France, Germany, Poland, Spain and Sweden — now produce fuel ethanol totalling 0.9 billion litres.

35. World biodiesel production increased from 2.1 to 3.9 billion litres between 2003 and 2005. World capacity, production and consumption of biodiesel grew on average by 32 per cent per year from 2000 to 2005. Biodiesel is now produced in nine European Union countries, accounting for more than three quarters of worldwide biodiesel production in 2005. New and potentially large markets for biodiesel are expected to emerge in China and India. Governments in many countries are offering tax exemptions and are implementing blending mandates to accelerate the production and use of biodiesel.

36. The rapid rise in biofuel production and use had given rise to growing concerns regarding the various dimensions of sustainability, particularly the impact on food production, food prices and food security. However, in a number of African countries, the small-scale production and local use of liquid biofuels, in particular the production of straight vegetable oil, pure plant oil and biodiesel from jatropha or other oil crops as a substitute for expensive imported diesel fuel, can make important contributions to income generation and sustainable development in rural areas. That has been demonstrated by successful project experiences in, among other countries, Mali, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.[8]

VI. International cooperation and international programmes in new and renewable energy technologies and their application

A. South-South cooperation in new and renewable sources of energy

37. The wider use of new and renewable sources of energy requires the sharing and transfer of technology and know-how as well as the diffusion of the relevant knowledge on a global scale, not only between developed and developing countries but also among developing countries. South-South cooperation between developing countries can offer mutual benefits for trading partners by opening up new markets and facilitating economies of scale in the manufacture of renewable-energy equipment. Renewable-energy technology and equipment importers may benefit from applying proven technologies and adapted designs that have been successfully tested and used in other developing countries. South-South cooperation can also result in significantly reduced costs.

38. In recent years, a number of significant South-South cooperation programmes in the area of renewable energy have been initiated in various areas, including liquid biofuels, hydropower, biomass and solar energy. Countries leading such international efforts include Brazil, China, India and South Africa. Brazil has initiated collaborative projects with several African countries, including Angola, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa. In Asia, Brazil has cooperation

[8] Background paper No. 2 prepared for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

agreements with various countries, including China, the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. In Latin America, Brazil cooperates, under various joint-venture agreements, with Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). China, too, is engaged in extensive South-South cooperation programmes on renewable energy. Various centres, including the Shenzhen International Technology Promotion Centre for Sustainable Development, address the concerns of developing-country partners through the transfer and diffusion of renewable-energy technologies. The International Centre on Small Hydropower in Hangzhou conducts capacity-building activities that include the training of professionals from African and other Asian developing countries in various aspects of small hydropower. India, with the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is involved in technology-transfer activities on biomass gasification technology developed at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.

B. Programmes of international financial institutions advancing new and renewable energy

39. International financial institutions play a crucial role not only in mobilizing the necessary financial resources for large-scale investments but also in supporting national lending institutions and small-scale revolving-loan funds. That is crucial for those developing countries, particularly in Africa, that continue to face constraints in the process of substantially increasing the share of renewable energy in their energy supply mix because of limited capacity and lack of access to technologies and financing.

40. The World Bank Group, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), continues to play a leading role in international cooperation for development financing. Whereas IBRD provides loans, loan guarantees and technical advisory services primarily to middle-income countries, donor contributions to IDA enable the World Bank to provide concessional loans to low-income countries. IFC and MIGA seek to encourage the engagement of the private sector in project development in developing countries. In recent years, the World Bank Group has made renewable energy and energy efficiency integral parts of its energy strategy. At the 2004 International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn, Germany, the World Bank Group announced a target of 20 per cent average annual growth in energy efficiency and new renewable commitments between fiscal years 2005 and 2009 (the "Bonn" target). The World Bank Group also reaffirmed its support for large-scale hydropower where economically and financially viable and where environmental and social safeguards are met.

41. A further important source of multilateral funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). GEF is the financing mechanism for a range of international environmental agreements, providing support for projects that generate global environmental benefits. Projects that promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy as well as energy efficiency continue to receive financing under climate-change focal areas following the fourth replenishment of GEF.

42. The financial commitments of the World Bank Group, summarized in tables 7.A and 7.B, have contributed considerably to a steady and accelerating investment in, and production of energy from, new and renewable sources. In 2005 and 2006, the World Bank Group outperformed its Bonn target. In fiscal year 2006, the World Bank Group's financial support for renewable energy and energy efficiency was $860 million, more than double the Bonn 20 per cent target, supporting 61 projects in 34 countries.

Table 7.A
World Bank Group renewable energy and energy efficiency commitments

(Millions of United States dollars)

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Renewable energy	350	342	273	665	413	2 043
Energy efficiency	67	168	67	243	447	992
Total	**417**	**510**	**339**	**908**	**860**	**3 035**

Source: World Bank Group 2006, "Improving lives: World Bank Group progress on renewable energy and energy efficiency", Fiscal Year 2006, annex 2.

Table 7.B
World Bank Group renewable energy and energy efficiency commitments by institution

(Millions of United States dollars)

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
IBRD and IDA	348	300	242	468	384	1 742
IFC	13	135	—	242	406	796
GEF	56	70	97	108	68	399
MIGA	—	5	—	91	2	98
Total	**417**	**510**	**339**	**908**	**860**	**3 035**

Source: World Bank Group 2006, "Improving lives: World Bank Group progress on renewable energy and energy efficiency, fiscal year 2006" (Washington, D.C., 2006), annex 2.

43. The regional development banks have also significantly increased their support and lending for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. In March 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a new sustainable energy and climate change initiative aimed at helping the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to expand the use of renewable-energy and energy-efficiency technologies, increase their participation in international carbon trading and support efforts to adapt to climate change. IDB also established and administers corresponding dedicated trust funds to mobilize additional project financing, including for new and renewable energy projects. In May 2006, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) began to review its energy policy with the aim of basing its energy strategy on three key pillars, including meeting Asia's growing energy

demand in a sustainable way, providing energy access for all and enhancing energy-sector reforms and governance. ADB large-scale lending projects for renewable energy include the $161 million Renewable Energy Sector Development Project in Indonesia, approved in 2002, and the $35 million Gansu Clean Energy Development Project in China, approved in 2003. Renewable energy projects do not as yet account for a significant share of the lending of the African Development Bank Group or of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

44. International lending for new and renewable energy projects from bilateral and multilateral sources has increased significantly in recent years. However, in many of the developing countries, and in rural areas in particular, small-scale energy entrepreneurs and cooperatives continue to face obstacles in the process of securing financing for viable project proposals. More innovative financing arrangements for smaller-scale projects and further upscaling and replication of successful renewable energy projects will be important for the achievement of the goals set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

C. Other international programmes raising awareness of new and renewable sources of energy

45. Several organizations of the United Nations system support, through policy and technical advisory services, developing-country efforts to expand the use of energy from renewable sources. At the request of many developing countries, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat has provided technical and policy advisory services to, inter alia, projects in China for the commercializing of renewable energy technologies and in several small island developing States for the practical application of solar energy systems, as well as in several Arab States for the strengthening of renewable-energy development capacities. With funds from the Human Security Fund, supported by Japan and the United Nations Foundation, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has recently implemented projects in the Gambia, India and Timor-Leste, adopting an integrated approach to capacity-building involving productive activities, community development and improvement of the basic water and energy infrastructure. With support provided by the Government of Iceland, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs also organized an international seminar in 2006 that was attended by experts from several small island developing States as well as from other developing countries to exchange experiences on the production and use of hydrogen from renewable sources of energy and their possible contribution to sustainable development. The conclusions and recommendations of the seminar were reported by the Government of Iceland to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session.[9]

46. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been continuously expanding its development cooperation and technical assistance so as to enable developing countries to address their priority development needs and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In 2005, UNDP disbursed $774 million, equivalent to 25 per cent of its total expenditure, for poverty reduction projects and $326 million, equivalent to 11 per cent of its expenditure, for energy and environment projects. UNDP country projects are aimed at establishing national policy frameworks that reflect the role of energy in poverty reduction and sustainable development;

[9] E/CN.17/2007/8.

increasing access to energy services, electricity or cleaner fuels in rural areas; introducing low-emission energy technologies, including renewable energy; and expanding access to energy investment financing through the Clean Development Mechanism and public-private partnerships. UNDP also implements a large number of GEF projects. In 2005, UNDP secured $284.5 million from GEF and attracted $1.02 billion in co-financing from Governments and donors for the implementation of GEF projects, both large- and small-scale.

47. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) addresses the environmental consequences of energy production and use, such as global climate change and local air pollution. UNEP promotes policies that place energy and transport within the broader sustainable development context and steers project developers and investors towards greater engagement in renewable-energy and energy-efficiency programmes. The UNEP Rural Energy Enterprise Development Programme supports the development of clean-energy enterprises in selected African countries, in North-East Brazil and in China's Yunnan Province. By "buying down" the costs of small loans for solar home systems, the UNEP Indian Solar Loan Programme, completed in 2005, has helped almost 20,000 southern Indian families to buy better energy services using clean, renewable energy. Based on its success, UNEP is now introducing the concept of actively expanding local and national markets for new and renewable energy technologies to other regions.

48. Demonstration projects using new and renewable sources, including biogas, small hydropower and wind, to provide modern energy services to the poor are also being implemented under the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in particular in African developing countries.

49. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to help developing countries, through policy advice, projects and technical advisory services, to meet their energy requirements in the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as a means of achieving sustainable development. FAO field projects are aimed at improving the living conditions of rural populations through an integrated sustainable-livelihoods approach, promoting rural income generation, public participation in decision-making and gender equality. FAO also hosts the secretariat of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), launched on the occasion of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

50. In promoting new and renewable energy development, technology dissemination and application, the programmes of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provide technical assistance and capacity-building support for productive uses and for industrial applications. UNIDO promotes renewable-energy entrepreneurship, the manufacture of renewable-energy equipment and rural industrialization using new and renewable energy in several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The current UNIDO new and renewable energy project portfolio includes projects in China, Cuba, India, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, as well as in several Caribbean small island developing States.

51. Building on the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has continued to provide support for national and regional training activities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for a variety of recent international seminars and conferences, such as the international seminar on the

theme "Access to energy for all", organized in Paris in 2006, and the Ministerial Conference on "Energy in a changing world", held at UNESCO in Paris in 2007. Under its African Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme, UNESCO carries out activities aimed at improving the establishment, maintenance and management of renewable-energy projects as well as the transfer of technological know-how, inter alia through continuing and distance education. In addition to several renewable-energy demonstration projects, UNESCO organized a series of summer schools that were attended by more than 300 participants, primarily from African nations.

52. The United Nations regional economic commissions have also made significant contributions to promoting the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy. The contribution of new and renewable energy technologies to poverty alleviation has remained the main focus of studies by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), including innovative financing mechanisms to facilitate access to energy services for the poor. In March 2006, the ECA Southern Africa Office proposed a subregional policy framework for new and renewable energy for the 14 countries of the Southern African Development Community. In the 2006-2007 biennium, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) also expanded its regional capacity-building activities to support environmentally benign economic growth, including the greater utilization of new and renewable sources of energy for poverty eradication. Based on successful mini-hydropower projects in Indonesia, ESCAP advocates greater multi-stakeholder cooperation through public-private-community partnerships to provide basic energy services and income-generating opportunities to the rural poor. In partnership with other regional organizations, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) also contributes to and conducts studies on the potential and use of new and renewable sources of energy in the region. Options to expand the use of renewable energy are also under study at the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), which disseminates information on renewable-energy technologies, in particular in the context of water desalination and rural electrification.

53. In order to enhance and ensure system-wide coherence and the effective use of limited resources, the various United Nations departments, programmes and agencies implementing energy-related programmes also actively collaborate as members of the UN-Energy network, which was established in 2004 following a decision by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the recommendation of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). During the start-up phase, members of UN-Energy have undertaken a comprehensive organizational mapping of their various energy-related programmes and project activities that are aimed at enhancing access to energy services, improving efficiency in energy use and increasing the use of new and renewable sources of energy. Mapping of the activities of UN-Energy members is periodically updated and published via the UN-Energy webpage (http://esa.un.org/un-energy). Today, UN-Energy brings together 20 United Nations departments, programmes and agencies. Collaborative activities are organized in interdisciplinary and inter-agency teams in selected areas of work. With regard to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO have jointly initiated a modelling project that applies, tests and demonstrates the versatility of

computer-model toolkits for energy planning and for the quantitative analysis of alternative renewable-energy policy measures and their projected impacts. Initial demonstration case studies have been undertaken by UN-Energy in Ghana and in China's Sichuan province. Under another initiative lead by FAO, UN-Energy also issued a common policy paper entitled "Sustainable bioenergy: A framework for decision makers" on the occasion of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

D. International partnerships, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders

54. International partnerships, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders that promote the development of new and renewable sources of energy also contribute significantly to advancing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. During the period 2005-2006, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) supported 31 projects in 30 countries. REEEP projects seek to mobilize private-sector and community initiatives for new and renewable energy and energy efficiency, and to promote innovative financing and improvements in regulatory frameworks for sustainable energy. REEEP established a Renewable Energy Exchange, based in Singapore, which acts as an intermediary between financiers and renewable-energy project developers. REEEP collaborates with other initiatives, including the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century. The latter monitors industry and policy trends and issues annual global status reports as well as discussion papers on selected issues. The Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) and the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) continued and expanded their networking, advisory services, resource-mobilization efforts and innovative project financing aimed at expanding access to modern forms of energy for the rural poor in developing countries. The e8 Network of Expertise for the Global Environment also expanded its support for renewable-energy projects in developing countries, including in Bhutan, Ecuador, Madagascar and Nicaragua. New partnerships registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development include the International Renewable Energy Alliance, the International Solar Energy Society and the Small Island Developing States Partnership for Implementation of New Technologies for Sustainable Development.

VII. Conclusions: perspectives for further increasing the use of new and renewable sources of energy

55. **Since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, new and renewable sources of energy have received increased attention worldwide at both the policy and operational levels due to their multiple economic, social and environmental advantages. New and renewable sources of energy are now considered valuable options for addressing the challenges of access to energy, poverty eradication and climate change, and their role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is increasingly recognized.**

56. **In the context of its recently concluded second implementation cycle and its review of the thematic cluster that includes the issues of energy for**

sustainable development, industrial development, air/atmosphere pollution and climate change, the Commission on Sustainable Development identified existing gaps, constraints and challenges and engaged in an extensive exchange of information on recent progress in increasing the use of new and renewable sources of energy. There was wide recognition, in the deliberations of the Commission, of the contribution that new and renewable sources of energy can make to the achievement of the sustainable-development goals.

57. Policies aimed at encouraging national and international investment in renewable-energy utilization have been implemented or are under consideration in many countries, resulting in a continued trend of rapidly expanding renewable-energy use. Although the share of energy derived from new and renewable sources is increasing, the total share of commercial energy derived from these sources remains far below its economic potential. According to the latest available estimates, the share of new and renewable energy in the total global energy supply, including large hydropower but not including combustible renewables and waste, has yet to increase beyond 3 per cent. The General Assembly may thus consider possible options or programmes to further the international cooperation to that end.

58. International conferences also provide important forums for exchanges of experience that can enhance international cooperation as well as provide awareness-raising opportunities. In 2004, participants attending the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn, adopted an International Action Programme. In 2005, the Governments of China and Germany jointly organized the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference, facilitated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Washington International Renewable Energy Conference, to be held in 2008, could also provide an important forum for expanding the global dialogue on opportunities for business and development cooperation in renewable-energy technologies, investments, capacity-building and training.

59. Increased local, national and international efforts will be needed to achieve the new and renewable energy elements of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In addition to continued awareness creation, technical training and capacity-building, the mobilization of the necessary means of implementation, including financial resources, technology transfer and investments will continue to play a key role in the further increase of new and renewable energy use.

60. The Clean Development Mechanism established under the Kyoto Protocol offers possibilities for financing the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries. An early agreement on a post-2012 arrangement for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions could greatly help to support and stimulate a more rapid expansion in the use of new and renewable energy in the future.

61. During its third implementation cycle in 2008 and 2009, the Commission on Sustainable Development will consider the thematic cluster that includes agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. Expanding access to modern energy services for sustainable development remains particularly urgent in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 26 per cent of the population has access to electricity and 575 million people still rely on

traditional biomass for their cooking. The third implementation cycle may provide an opportunity to review the situation in Africa, including the widespread lack of access to modern energy services and Africa's continuing dependence on the unsustainable use of traditional biomass for meeting its basic energy needs.